

WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1904,

INCLUDING A

Summary of the Annual Reports

OF THE

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

AND OTHER RECORDS

BY

JOHN TUBB - THOMAS,

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TROWBRIDGE :

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WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1904.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my seventh Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Administrative County.

Part I contains the general statistics for the whole County, and for the combined Urban and combined Rural Districts respectively, and comparative figures for the whole of England and Wales, and Rural England and Wales. As in previous years, I have given a short review of the statistics and the health and sanitary progress of the County, based in some measure upon the Annual Reports received from the Medical Officers of Health, and also upon my own observations during my periodical inspections of the County.

As in my previous reports, in Part II. and Part III., I have made a special summary of each of the Reports received from the Medical Officer of the Urban and Rural Districts respectively.

Of the 32 Reports presented, 11 of the Urban and all (19) of the Rural were printed in book or pamphlet form; 1 of the Urban was sent in type-written form, and 1 Urban was sent in manuscript form. Below I give a table showing the date when each report was received, whether printed or manuscript, and moieties of salaries of Medical Officers and Inspectors of Nuisances payable by the County Council.

Urban Districts.	Area in Acres.	Population Census 1901.	Moiety of Salary payable by County Council.		Date on which Report was received.	Printed or Otherwise.
			Medical Officer of Health.	Inspector of Nuisances		
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Bradford-on-Avon ...	1,990	4,514	15 0 0	15 0 0	1 March, 1905 ...	printed
Calne ...	356	3,457	10 0 0	20 0 0	13 February, 1905...	printed
Chippenham ...	361	5,074	12 10 0	30 0 0	17 February, 1905...	printed
Devizes ...	906	6,532	25 0 0	30 0 0	22 March, 1905 ...	printed
Malmesbury ...	178	2,854	10 0 0	20 0 0	19 April, 1905 ...	printed
Marlborough ...	598	3,887	15 10 0	17 10 0	21 February, 1905...	printed
Melksham ...	476	2,450	12 10 0	15 0 0	17 February, 1905...	printed
Salisbury ...	600	17,117	30 0 0	55 0 0	3 February, 1905...	printed
Swindon ...	4,265	45,006	100 0 0	75 0 0	18 May, 1905 ...	printed
Trowbridge ...	2,126	11,526	30 0 0	40 0 0	16 February, 1905...	printed
Warminster ...	6,564	5,547	15 15 0	15 0 0	28 February, 1905...	typewritten
Westbury ...	3,599	3,305	15 0 0	10 0 0	5 May, 1905 ...	printed
Wilton ...	1,915	2,203	10 0 0	15 0 0	9 May, 1905 ...	manuscript
			301 5 0	357 10 0		
Rural Districts.						
Amesbury ...	63,453	8,268	25 0 0	25 0 0	22 February, 1905...	printed
Bradford-on-Avon ...	16,698	5,071	20 0 0	25 0 0	1 March, 1905 ...	printed
Calne ...	28,968	4,614	25 0 0	42 10 0	16 February, 1905...	printed
Chippenham ...	58,606	17,885	56 0 0	60 0 0	16 February, 1905...	printed
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett	46,734	11,357	25 0 0	30 0 0	8 May, 1905 ...	printed
Devizes ...	61,856	13,070	50 0 0	60 0 0	22 March, 1905 ...	printed
Highworth ...	49,721	14,279	50 0 0	70 0 0	29 April, 1905 ...	printed
Malmesbury ...	58,357	9,822	35 0 0	35 0 0	15 April, 1905 ...	printed
Marlborough ...	43,795	4,571	15 0 0	18 0 0	23 February, 1905...	printed
Melksham ...	13,777	4,440	25 0 0	17 10 0	17 February, 1905...	printed
Mere ...	32,309	5,210	15 0 0	20 0 0	11 March, 1905 ...	printed
Pewsey ...	75,219	11,211	25 0 0	27 10 0	6 February, 1905...	printed
Ramsbury ...	51,614	7,094	14 2 2	32 10 0	11 May, 1905 ...	printed
Salisbury ...	58,112	12,860	40 0 0	35 0 0	22 February, 1905...	printed
Tisbury ...	43,562	7,714	25 0 0	40 0 0	16 February, 1905...	printed
Warminster ...	51,894	6,234	30 0 0	17 10 0	28 February, 1905...	printed
Westbury and Whorwellsdown	27,935	6,399	25 0 0	22 10 0	5 May, 1905 ...	printed
Wilton ...	54,290	7,467	35 0 0	30 0 0	21 February, 1905...	printed
Tetbury (Wilts Portion) ...	3,271	356	1 18 1	1 11 9	11 May, 1905 ...	printed
			537 0 3	609 11 9		

None of the Medical Officers devote their whole time to such duties, and in the Urban Districts only Swindon, Salisbury, and Trowbridge have "whole time" Inspectors of Nuisances; in the Rural Districts Highworth and Ramsbury only have "whole time" Inspectors of Nuisances.

The Local Government Board informed the Trowbridge Urban Council that it would not sanction the appointment of an Officer to hold the joint office of Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances, consequently a whole time Officer was appointed as Inspector of Nuisances. The appointment has been more than justified, and already there is a marked improvement in the sanitary condition of the town. There are several Rural Districts in the County where the Inspectors of Nuisances hold numerous other appointments, or are engaged in other work which precludes them from devoting sufficient time to their duties under the Public Health Acts. During the year an inspection was made by one of the Inspectors of the Local Government Board, of one of the Rural Districts in the County, and with regard to the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector of Nuisances, he made the following remarks in his report:—

"The Medical Officer of Health has only held office for one year, but he has been in practice in the neighbourhood for some 14 years. His salary is £50 a year, of which half is refunded by the County Council of Wiltshire. He has not, as a practice, made systematic visits of inspection to the various parts of his District, either by himself or in the company of the Inspector of Nuisances. He has not visited or exercised any supervision over the numerous Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops in the District generally, but he makes monthly visits of inspection to certain of them supplying milk to the Dairy Company. For this work, however, he receives remuneration from that Company. He

“does not appear to have paid much, if any, attention to the condition of Bakehouses and Slaughter-houses. He does not attend the meetings of the District Council, and his reports to the Council are mainly statistical.”

“From the above statement it is clear that Dr. ——— cannot be regarded as performing the duties of a Medical Officer of Health as specified in the Board’s General Order of March 23rd, 1891.”

“Dr. ——— seemed surprised that so much work should be expected from an officer who was receiving so small an emolument as that accorded him, and intimated that the performance of duties required of him might imperil his relations with some of his best patients. To this I replied that by accepting office he had undertaken to do the work for the salary, such as it was, and that he was morally bound to perform his duties in a proper manner. As to imperilling his relations with patients, I pointed out that, while this consideration might be held to favour the employment of a Medical Officer of Health not in private practice, it did not excuse Dr. ———’s non-fulfilment of his duties.”

“It may be that in fixing Dr. ———’s salary at £50 a year the District Council took into consideration the fact that the Medical Officer of Health receives from the ——— Dairy Company certain fees for periodical (monthly) inspection of the Dairy Farms supplying milk to that Company, but this arrangement in no way concerns the District Council, which, seeing that it does not employ Dr. ———’s whole time, has nothing to do with his sources of private emolument.”

“The Inspector of Nuisances. For the performance of his duties as Inspector of Nuisances and Inspector of Plans of New Buildings, he receives a salary of £60 per annum, apportioned £55 to the former, and £5 to the latter office. The Wiltshire County Council refund half his salary as Inspector of Nuisances. He also holds office as Surveyor of Highways, supervising the repairs of some 220 miles of District Roads, at an annual salary of £60, as School Attendance Officer, at an annual salary of £50, and as Collector of Taxes, for which he receives about £7 a year. He does not hold any Certificate from the Sanitary Institute or from any similar body. He was first appointed in June, 1890, and has now completed 14 years in office. Prior to his appointment he had been a farmer, and had not had any experience of the duties devolving upon him as an Inspector of Nuisances. He resides near the north-western extremity of his district, distant in straight lines, some 8 to 13 miles from places on the southern and eastern boundaries of the District. All the above distances are considerably increased if measured along the roads by which the Inspector travels. The train service is of little use within the District, and Mr. ——— is mainly dependent upon some conveyance, or upon his bicycle, for visiting the various localities. Inspection of his Journals and of his records of nuisances shows that he deals with a number of nuisances, visits slaughter-houses, disinfects dwellings after infectious diseases, &c., *but from actual inspection of the District, it would appear that the cases dealt with form only a small proportion of these nuisances, which ought to be discovered, reported to the Council, and effectually abated.* His books are submitted to the Council, the action ordered is recorded in them, and the Chairman initials them. The Council, however, does not invariably take action on the Inspector’s reports, and their inaction is especially noticeable in cases of overcrowding. Meanwhile, the many unwholesome circumstances noted by me in the course of my inspection go to show that Mr. ——— has not sufficient time at his disposal to properly carry out the many and important duties of an Inspector of Nuisances in so large a District.”

“In allotting to the work of Inspector of Nuisances in this extended district a salary no higher than £55, the District Council very possibly took into consideration, as in the case of the Medical Officer of Health, Mr. ———’s total emolument (some £170 yearly) as an officer of the Authority. The fact, however, that he annually receives this sum does not justify the Council in appointing him as Inspector of Nuisances at a salary tending to encourage him in the belief that less than one-third of his time is required in exercise of the duties of that office. The appointments of Inspector of Nuisances and Highway Surveyor should be divided and assigned to different officers, each of whom should be adequately remunerated.

“The District Council meets fortnightly after the meeting of the Board of Guardians. The minute book affords fairly full evidence of work done in connection with non-sanitary matters, such as road repairs, accounts, &c.; *but sanitary affairs are generally disposed of by the following short paragraph: “The reports of the District Surveyor, Medical Officer of Health, and Inspector of Nuisances were produced and read.” The matters reported upon are not stated, nor is the action ordered recorded. For purposes of record, or for production in case of legal proceedings, the minute book is practically useless.*”

Taking into consideration the large areas and the enormous number of extra duties thrown upon sanitary officers during the past few years, it is greatly to be wondered at that men can be got to take the appointments for the small remuneration offered; and it cannot be expected that the duties can be efficiently carried out for the salaries which are given. All the Medical Officers in the County are engaged in private practice, and in the efficient carrying out of their duties would be frequently thrown into conflict with their best paying patients. Possibly some of the best sanitary work in this County is done by the men who receive proportionately the lowest salaries, and it is much to be feared that they do not always earn the goodwill of their Authorities by the efficient discharge of their duties.

The remarks about the annual reports which I made last year still hold good; some of them are very good, others are practically valueless.

The Local Government Inspector, with regard to the report above referred to, says :

“ His reports are mainly statistical Hitherto Dr. — has had only one opportunity of sending in an Annual Report, viz. : that for the year 1903. The Report in question extended to a little more than three pages of foolscap in manuscript, and did not afford such information as should be given in an Annual Report written in compliance with the Board's ‘ Memorandum as to Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health ’ of October, 1903. In justice to Dr. —, however, it should be mentioned that he held office for barely five months of the year upon which he was reporting.”

I can say that the Report for 1903 about which the Inspector complained, was certainly not the least valuable received by the County Council. Some of the Medical Officers are not in that perfect touch with their Authorities which can only be obtained by a fairly regular attendance at the Meetings of the Councils, and their Committees. The Local Government Board Inspector's remarks apply equally to several other districts.

It is a matter for regret that the Summary of the Annual Reports of the Medical Officers of Health cannot be issued earlier, but it is quite impossible under present conditions. Until the whole of the reports have been received the statistics for the whole county cannot be prepared.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

A larger number of Special Reports were received this year ; a considerable number still fail to reach the County Council. This more especially refers to the important subjects of closing of houses as unfit for habitation, and of school closure on account of outbreaks of Infectious Disease.

The Order of the Local Government Board which defines the duties of Medical Officers of Health includes the following Articles :—

“(15). He shall give immediate information to us of any outbreak of dangerous epidemic disease within the District, and shall transmit to us a copy of each annual report and of any special report. He shall make a special report to us of the grounds of any advice which he may give to the Sanitary Authority with a view to their requiring the closure of any school or schools, in pursuance of the Code of Regulations approved by the Education Department and for the time being in force.”

“(16). *At the same time that he gives information to us of an outbreak of infectious disease, or transmits to us a copy of his annual report, or of any special report, he shall give the like information or transmit a copy of such report to the County Council, or County Councils, of the County or Counties within which his district may be situated.*”

AREA AND POPULATION.

During the year 1904 the only changes in the constitution of the Districts within the Administrative County were with respect to Salisbury Urban and Rural Districts. On the 9th November, 1904, the Borough was extended by the addition of the Parish of Fisherton Anger Without, part of the Parish of Britford, part of the Parish of East Harnham, and part of the Parishes of Milford Without and Stratford-under-the-Castle, all previously contained in the Salisbury Rural District, with an area of about 1,110 acres, and a population roughly estimated at about 3,100.

The Ancient or Geographical County of Wilts contains 879,943 statute acres. The population at the Census of 1801 was 183,820 ; at the Census of 1901 it was 273,869. The Administrative County contains an area of 864,105 statute acres with an enumerated population at the 1901 Census of 271,394. The population of the Administrative County at the middle of the year 1904 is estimated at 274,051 ; of these 117,518 are in Urban Districts, and 156,533 in Rural Districts.

The estimated populations for 1904 are arrived at by various methods. That of the Registrar General is, by comparison of the Census Returns for 1891 and 1901, to determine the rate of increase or decrease during that period, and to suppose that rate of increase or decrease to have continued for $3\frac{1}{4}$ years to the middle of 1904.

Table showing the number of Inhabited Houses and Population at the Census of 1891 and 1901 in the Administrative County, the Urban and Rural Districts of Wilts:—

	Inhabited houses		Increase or decrease of inhabited houses between 1891 and 1901		Population		Increase or decrease of population between 1891 and 1901	
	1891	1901	Increase	Decrease	1891	1901	Increase	Decrease
WILTSHIRE ..	56912	60716	3804	..	262551	271394	8843	..
URBAN DISTRICTS.								
Bradford-on-Avon ..	1150	1119	..	31	4943	4514	..	429
Calne ..	751	812	61	..	3495	3457	..	38
Chippenham ..	985	1101	116	..	4618	5074	456	..
Devizes ..	1385	1431	46	..	6426	6532	106	..
Malmesbury ..	695	687	..	8	2946	2854	..	110
Marlborough ..	618	623	5	..	3012	3046	34	..
Melksham ..	492	579	87	..	2078	2450	372	..
Salisbury ..	3222	3652	430	..	15533	17117	1584	..
Swindon ..	5852	9240	3388	..	33001	45006	12005	..
Trowbridge ..	2722	2817	95	..	12046	11526	..	520
Warminster ..	1253	1264	11	..	5563	5547	..	16
Westbury ..	1072	802	..	270	3341	3305	..	36
Wilton ..	480	518	38	..	2120	2203	83	..
TOTALS ..	20677	24645	4277	309	99140	112631	14640	1149
RURAL DISTRICTS.								
Amesbury ..	1566	1668	102	..	6878	8628	1390	..
Bradford-on-Avon ..	1153	1134	..	19	5408	5071	..	337
Calne ..	1184	1128	..	56	5014	4614	..	400
Chippenham ..	3738	3996	258	..	17050	17885	835	..
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett)	2658	2594	..	64	11835	11357	..	478
Devizes ..	2898	2803	..	95	13318	13070	..	248
Highworth ..	3015	3157	142	..	14309	14279	..	30
Malmesbury ..	2263	2222	..	41	10203	9822	..	381
Marlborough ..	1162	1131	..	31	5494	5412	..	82
Melksham ..	993	1012	19	..	4480	4440	..	40
Mere ..	1357	1258	..	99	5762	5210	..	552
Pewsey ..	2678	2576	..	102	11713	11211	..	502
Ramsbury ..	1877	1747	..	130	8023	7094	..	929
Salisbury ..	2706	2795	89	..	12894	12860	..	34
Tisbury ..	1956	1845	..	111	8597	7714	..	883
Warminster ..	1846	1611	..	235	7470	6234	..	1236
Westbury and Whorwellsdown)	1364	1602	238	..	6786	6399	..	387
Wilton ..	1739	1715	..	24	7774	7467	..	307
Tetbury (Wilts portion)	82	77	..	5	403	356	..	47
TOTALS ..	36325	36071	848	1012	163411	158763	2225	6873

BIRTHS.

The Births registered in the Districts within the administrative County numbered 6865 against 6808 in 1903. 3050 were registered in the Urban Districts as against 3002 in 1903 and 3815 in the Rural Districts as against 3806 in 1903. The Birth-rate corresponded to 25·05 per 1000 of the population, or 25·95 in the Urban and 24·37 in the Rural Districts. The Birth-rate shows a slight increase as compared with 1903.

The following Table shows the average Birth-rate of the whole administrative County per 1000 of the estimated population for the years 1891—1904, and for the Urban and Rural Districts for the years 1903-1904, together with, for purposes of comparison, the corresponding rates for England and Wales, and for the large towns in England:—

DISTRICTS.	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Administrative County	27·8	27·0	27·9	26·1	26·8	26·4	25·7	25·0	24·69	24·37	24·93	24·40	24·91	25·05
Urban Districts .. ..	..	..	..	27·9	29·2	28·3	25·2	25·6	24·47	24·70	25·75	24·67	25·84	25·95
Rural Districts .. ..	..	..	26·3	25·3	25·4	25·4	24·5	24·5	24·74	24·13	24·35	24·20	24·24	24·37
England and Wales ..	31·4	30·4	30·7	29·6	30·3	29·6	29·6	29·3	29·1	28·7	28·5	28·5	28·4	27·9
Large towns in England	32·5	31·8	31·8	30·6	31·2	30·7	30·7	30·3	30·2	29·4	30·0	..	..	29·1

From this it will be seen that the Birth-rate of the County, although slightly increased in the combined Urban Districts and the combined Rural Districts, has been, and still is, considerably below the average for England and Wales. The Birth-rate for England and Wales in 1904 was 0·5 per 1000 below the rate for 1903, and lower than any year on record. The Birth-rate of Wiltshire shows a slight rise and does not follow the tendency towards decrease observed generally throughout England and Wales. Compared with the average in the ten years 1894—1903, the Birth-rate of England and Wales shows a decrease of 1·3 per 1000, whilst the decrease in the Birth-rate of the Administrative County of Wilts for the same period was only 0·28 per 1000.

From the Registrar General's last Annual Report it is shown that the true decrease of the Birth-rate is not adequately shown by a comparison of the rates calculated on the total population. Taking into consideration the very considerable changes in the sex and age constitution of the population it is obvious that the comparison of Birth-rates calculated by this method fails to give a true measure of the amount of decrease that has actually occurred. The disturbing factor of changing constitution of the population is mainly, though not entirely, eliminated by calculating the proportion of births to the number of women living at child-bearing ages. This method of measuring the Birth-rate shows the amount of the decrease to be far greater than is shown by the rates based on the total population.

The relative decrease in the Birth-rate as shown by the several methods of calculation may be summarised in the following statement of the Registrar General, which gives the decrease per cent. in the past 30, 20, and 10 year periods respectively.

DECREASE OF BIRTH-RATE PER CENT.

METHOD OF CALCULATING BIRTH-RATE.	30 Years.	20 Years.	10 Years.
	1870-2 to 1900-2	1880-2 to 1900-2	1890-2 to 1900-2
Proportion of Total Births to Total Population	19·0	15·9	6·8
Proportion of Total Births to all Women aged 15—45 years	25·3	22·3	11·5
Proportion of Legitimate Births to Married Women aged 15—45 years	19·5	17·7	10·7
Proportion of Illegitimate Births to unmarried & widowed Women 15—45 years	50·0	39·7	19·0

Table showing total number of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, registered during the years 1890-1904 in the Registration County of Wilts.

Year.	BIRTHS. (Exclusive of Still-born).					DEATHS. (Exclusive of Still-born).			Marriages.	Persons married in 1000 living.
	Total.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Total.	Males.	Females.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.					
1890	6997	3319	3376	153	149	4114	2052	2062	1662	13·1
1891	7101	3444	3358	157	142	4317	2164	2153	1685	13·2
1892	6925	3340	3327	138	120	4578	2301	2277	1734	13·5
1893	7159	3492	3384	133	150	4112	2022	2090	1649	12·9
1894	6711	3299	3126	136	150	3969	2028	1941	1682	13·1
1895	6912	3425	3221	141	125	4095	2117	1978	1696	13·2
1896	6828	3351	3201	150	126	3567	1852	1715	1700	13·1
1897	6632	3240	3125	140	127	3817	1987	1830	1761	13·6
1898	6770	3318	3169	155	128	3807	1937	1870	1780	13·7
1899	6726	3304	3157	138	127	4266	2173	2093	1929	14·9
1900	6548	3195	3089	121	143	3888	2034	1854	1824	13·9
1901	6606	3218	3122	121	145	3728	1908	1820	1845	14·0
1902	6442	3076	3065	150	151	3896	2013	1883	1954	14·7
1903	6586	3240	3078	148	120	3517	1767	1750	2007	15·1
1904	6671	..	..	..	..	3814	..	..	1945	..

During 1903, there were registered in the County of Wilts, 268 illegitimate births, equal to 40 per 1000 of the total births, or to 0.98 per 1000 of the population living.

At the Census in 1901, there were in Wiltshire 31267 unmarried women and widows, between the ages of 15 and 45 years. The proportion of illegitimate births per 1000 of these women was 8.57 in 1903, compared with 9.62 in 1902, and 8.50 per 1000 in 1901.

The Birth-rate varied in the Urban Districts from 29.76 per 1000 of the estimated population in the Swindon District, to 15.65 in the Marlborough District. In the Rural Districts the variation was between 30.48 in the Highworth District, and 17.54 per 1000 in the Tetbury District.

The Birth-rates of the several Urban Districts as given by the Medical Officers were as follows:—

Per 1000 of estimated population.				Per 1000 of estimated population.			
Swindon	...	...	29.76	Wilton	...	...	22.45
Malmesbury	...	...	28.71	Trowbridge	...	...	22.33
Chippenham	...	...	25.14	Warminster	...	...	22.00
Salisbury	...	...	25.01	Calne	...	...	21.47
Westbury	...	...	24.88	Bradford-on-Avon	...	...	20.29
Devizes	...	...	24.37	Marlborough	...	...	15.65
Melksham	...	...	23.03				

The Rural District Birth-rates were as follows:—

Per 1000 of estimated population.				Per 1000 of estimated population.			
Highworth	...	...	30.48	Westbury and Whorwellsdown	...	...	23.23
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett	...	...	28.17	Mere...	...	...	21.60
Melksham	...	...	27.77	Devizes	...	...	21.46
Pewsey	...	...	27.57	Wilton	...	...	21.42
Amesbury	...	...	27.05	Marlborough	...	...	19.79
Ramsbury	...	...	25.96	Calne	...	...	19.58
Tisbury	...	...	25.50	Malmesbury	...	...	18.95
Chippenham	...	...	24.42	Warminster	...	...	18.07
Bradford-on-Avon	...	...	24.14	Tetbury	...	...	17.54
Salisbury	...	...	23.73				

In only one or two of the Annual Reports sent in is there any reference to the sex of the children who are born or the persons who die, and I am only able to obtain general information upon the subject from the Registrar General's Annual Reports. During the ten years, 1893 to 1902, the proportion of males born to 1,000 females born in Wiltshire was 1,038, and in the year 1903, the last of which I have recorded, the proportion was 1,059 males to 1,000 females. The average rate for England and Wales was 1,035 males to 1,000 females. In registration counties with populations exceeding 100,000 persons the lowest proportions of male to 1,000 female births were 968 in Carmarthenshire, 1,005 in Dorsetshire, 1,010 in Derbyshire, 1,020 in Norfolk and in Herefordshire; and the highest proportions were 1,059 in Suffolk and in Wiltshire, 1,068 in Cornwall, 1072 in the North Riding of Yorkshire, 1,083 in Bedfordshire and in Cambridgeshire, and 1,094 in Carnarvonshire. At Swindon very strangely the figures are reversed, and there was a marked excess of female births. In 1903 there were 692 males born to 703 females, whilst in 1904 there were 707 males to 740 females.

It has been observed for many years that the mortality amongst male infants is greater than amongst females. I append a table taken from the Registrar General's Report for the year 1903, showing the death-rate of infants of both sexes who had not reached their first birthday. Amongst boys of this age the rate was 145 and among girls 118 per 1,000 births, as compared with average rates of 167 and 137 respectively in the preceding five years.

Table showing Infantile Mortality in England and Wales. Deaths under one year of age per 1,000 Births :—

		All Causes.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Tubercular Diseases.	Meningitis and Convulsions.	Pneumonia.	Bronchitis.	Wasting Diseases.
Both Sexes.	England and Wales ..	132	2	5	21	6	16	11	11	44
	Urban Counties ..	143	3	5	24	7	17	13	12	45
	Rural Counties ..	107	1	4	11	4	16	8	8	42
Boys.	England and Wales ..	145	2	5	22	7	18	13	13	49
	Urban Counties ..	156	3	5	26	7	19	15	13	50
	Rural Counties ..	120	1	4	13	4	18	9	9	48
Girls.	England and Wales ..	118	2	5	19	5	14	10	10	39
	Urban Counties ..	129	3	6	23	6	15	12	11	40
	Rural Counties ..	94	1	4	10	4	13	7	7	36

This excess of mortality in boys is continued at least to the age of five years, as the death-rate per 1,000 living among children 0—5 years of age in England and Wales in 1903 was 47·29 for both sexes combined; but in boys the rate was 51·69 per 1,000, and in girls 42·9 per 1,000 living.

DEATHS.

The number of Deaths registered in the administrative County in 1904 was 3937. The natural increase of population (excess of Births over Deaths) was 2928 against 3153 in 1903.

The Death-rate for the administrative County was 14·36 per 1000 of the estimated population compared with 13·37 in 1903; for the combined Urban Districts 13·13 per 1000; for the combined Rural Districts 15·28 per 1000. There was a considerable difference in the Death-rates of the various districts, the range in the Urban Districts being from 18·43 per 1000 in Malmesbury to 10·55 per 1000 in Chippenham. In the Rural Districts the Death-rate varied from 20·46 in Tetbury District to 10·91 in Malmesbury District.

The average Death-rate of the whole administrative County per 1000 of population, and of the combined Urban and Rural Districts respectively, for the years 1891-1904 is shown in the following Table, together with the corresponding rates for England and Wales, and for the large towns in Country Districts in England, taken from the Registrar General's Returns :—

DISTRICTS.	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Administrative County	16·9	17·8	16·0	15·4	15·9	13·8	14·8	14·4	15·76	14·61	14·12	14·64	13·37	14·36
Urban Districts .. ..	..	..	15·6	15·2	14·8	13·7	13·2	13·1	15·44	13·00	13·54	13·15	12·11	13·13
Rural Districts .. ..	..	..	16·3	15·9	15·6	13·0	13·9	15·5	15·97	15·75	14·53	15·73	14·31	15·28
England and Wales ..	20·2	19·0	19·2	16·6	18·7	17·1	17·4	17·5	18·2	18·2	16·9	16·2	15·4	16·2
Town Districts in England	22·4	20·6	21·5	18·0	20·5	18·9	19·0	18·3	20·2	18·1	18·6	17·4	16·3	17·2
Country Districts of England and Wales	18·5	18·1	17·4	15·6	17·0	15·3	15·8	16·0	17·1	17·5	15·7	15·3	14·8	15·3

From the above it will be seen that the Death-rate of the County compares very favourably with the average for England and Wales, as also does the combined Urban Death-rate with that of the large towns but the Rural Death-rate is practically the same as that of the Country Districts of England and Wales.

I am dependent for my statistics upon the Tables sent in by the Medical Officers of Health, and these do not lend themselves to accurate calculation of corrected Death-rates for the Administrative County. I therefore have to wait for the Annual Reports of the Registrar General, and these are not as a rule issued until 15 to 18 months or more after the close of a year. The Report for 1903 was issued in March, 1905.

The Registrar General's Report deals with Registration Counties, the boundaries of which differ much from the Administrative County. For instance, the Ramsbury Rural District of Wiltshire is shown in the figures for Berkshire as a portion of the Hungerford, Kintbury, and Lambourne Sub-Registration Districts of the Hungerford Registration District, and the figures are difficult to abstract. The figures for the Tetbury parishes appear in the Gloucestershire figures for the Tetbury Registration District.

In the Urban Districts there were 118 more deaths registered than in 1903. There was an increase in the mortality amongst very young children, there being 39 more deaths under one year; and three more deaths between the ages of one and five years. There was an increase of two in the number of deaths between five and 15 years, an increase of 11 between 15 and 25 years, and an increase of 18 deaths between the ages of 25 and 65. There was also an increase of 45 in the number of deaths of persons over 65 years of age.

In the Rural Districts there were 121 more deaths registered than in 1903. Here there was an increase in the mortality amongst young children, there being 30 more deaths under one year, and five more between one and five years. There were 13 more deaths between the ages of five and 15 years, three more between 15 and 25 years, and four more between the ages of 25 and 65 years. There was an increase of 66 over the age of 65 years.

With regard to the Urban Districts there were three whose Death-rates exceeded the average for England and Wales, viz., Calne, Malmesbury, and Westbury.

In the Rural Districts there were ten whose death-rates exceeded the average for the country districts of England and Wales, viz.: Bradford-on-Avon, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth, Melksham, Pewsey, Ramsbury, Salisbury, Tetbury, and Warminster.

Number of Deaths at all ages.

Arranged in the order of their Death-rates, the Urban Districts stand thus:—

Per 1000 of estimated population.			Per 1000 of estimated population.		
Chippenham	...	10·55	Salisbury	...	13·52
Bradford-on-Avon	...	10·94	Warminster	...	14·61
Marlborough	...	12·31	Devizes	...	15·69
Swindon	...	12·38	Westbury	...	16·69
Trowbridge	...	12·57	Calne	...	16·83
Wilton	...	12·57	Malmesbury	...	18·43
Melksham	...	12·88			

Arranged in the order of their Death-rates, the Rural Districts stand as follows:—

Per 1000 of estimated population.			Per 1000 of estimated population.		
Malmesbury	...	10·91	Bradford-on-Avon	...	15·49
Calne	...	11·57	Warminster	...	15·51
Marlborough	...	12·09	Highworth	...	15·76
Amesbury	...	12·32	Melksham	...	16·03
Tisbury	...	12·34	Salisbury	...	17·58
Wilton	...	13·15	Pewsey	...	17·71
Mere...	...	13·28	Cricklade and Wootton Bassett	...	18·90
Westbury and Whorwellsdown	...	13·68	Devizes	...	18·92
Chippenham	...	15·16	Tetbury	...	20·46
Ramsbury	...	15·40			

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The rate for the County shows a marked increase on the previous year. The proportion of Deaths under one year to 1000 Births was 95·99—Urban, 100·32; Rural, 92·52.

The Infantile Death-rate varied in the Urban Districts from 135·80 per 1000 Births in the Malmesbury District, to 40·00 in the Wilton District. In the Rural Districts the variation was between 166·66 in the Tetbury District (Wilts portion), and 51·06 per 1000 Births in the Amesbury District.

From the subjoined Table it will be observed that the rate for the County compares very favourably with that for England and Wales, and Rural England and Wales.

It is much to be regretted that many of the Medical Officers in their Annual Reports do not direct the attention of their Authorities to methods for the saving of Infant life.

The Registrar General in his Annual Report says:—

“Special interest attaches to the incidence of mortality in the earlier years of life, because the mortality at that age is recognised as the most sensitive test of the health of communities.

“In the year 1903, among Registration Counties with populations exceeding 100,000, Infantile Mortality ranged from 84 per 1000 in Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire, 85 in Wiltshire, and 88 in Somersetshire, to 150 in the West Riding of Yorkshire, 151 in Nottinghamshire, 152 in Northumberland, 154 Lancashire, and 156 in Durham. The mortality from all causes in children under five years of age among counties exceeding 100,000 population was lowest, 26·9 in Wiltshire, 27·4 in Oxfordshire, and 27·7 in Hertfordshire; whilst it ranged upwards to 55·1 in Nottinghamshire, 55·4 in the West Riding of Yorkshire, 56·1 in Northumberland, 59·7 in Lancashire, and 60·1 in Durham.”

The following Table shows the average Infantile Death-rate for the Administrative County per 1000 births for the years 1891—1904, together with, for purposes of comparison, the corresponding rates for England and Wales, and for the large towns taken from the Registrar General's Returns:—

DISTRICTS.	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Administrative County	100	111	98	103	102	88	113	100	116·05	94·0	93·70	97·23	85·63	95·99
Urban Districts ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110	147·54	95·6	106·8	93·63	89·27	100·32
Rural Districts ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93	94·87	115·7	83·8	99·89	82·76	92·52
England and Wales ..	149	148	159	137	161	148	156	161	163	154·0	151·0	133·0	132·0	146·0
Large towns in England	167	173	181	152	182	168	176	178	181	172·0	168·0	145·0	144·0	160·0
Rural England & Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	124	138·0	137	135·0	118·0	125·0

Deaths under one year.

Arranged in order of their Infantile Mortality Rates, the Urban Districts stand as follows :—

	Per 1000 of Births.		Per 1000 of Births.
Wilton ...	40·00	Melksham ...	101·69
Devizes ...	56·25	Swindon ...	111·26
Chippenham ...	61·06	Salisbury ...	111·36
Warminster ...	65·57	Marlborough ...	114·75
Trowbridge ...	74·80	Bradford-on-Avon ...	123·59
Calne ...	94·59	Malmesbury ...	135·80
Westbury ...	97·56		

The Rural, in respect of their Infantile Mortality Rates stand thus :—

	Per 1000 of Births.		Per 1000 of Births.
Amesbury ...	51·06	Melksham ...	97·56
Salisbury ...	62·29	Warminster ...	103·77
Mere ...	64·22	Devizes ...	103·94
Malmesbury ...	65·21	Highworth ...	112·64
Calne ...	68·18	Cricklade and Wootton Bassett	120·25
Ramsbury ...	73·44	Chippenham ...	121·89
Tisbury ...	73·68	Marlborough ...	122·22
Bradford-on-Avon ...	75·00	Westbury and Whorwellsdown	123·28
Wilton ...	75·94	Tetbury ...	166·66
Pewsey ...	85·24		

PHTHISIS MORTALITY.—The deaths attributed to Phthisis in the Administrative County were 252, of these 121 were registered in the Urban Districts, and 131 in the Rural Districts.

The following Table shows the Phthisis Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated population for the administrative County, and for the combined Urban and Rural Districts respectively, also for comparative purposes the rate for England and Wales, for the thirteen years 1892-1904.

AREAS.		1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Administrative County	No. of Deaths ..	..	..	..	302	245	216	275	269	285	246	216	210	252
	Rate per 1000 ..	1·24	1·13	1·08	1·11	·90	·78	·99	·96	1·05	·89	·79	·76	·91
Combined Urban Districts	No. of Deaths ..	..	..	..	134	108	78	109	108	119	95	95	92	121
	Rate per 1000 ..	..	..	..	1·23	1·01	·72	·93	·95	1·05	·81	·82	·79	1·02
Combined Rural Districts	No. of Deaths ..	..	..	..	168	137	138	166	161	166	151	121	118	131
	Rate per 1000 ..	..	..	..	1·01	·82	·83	1·01	·97	1·04	·95	·76	·75	·83
England and Wales	Rate per 1000 ..	1·468	1·466	1·383	1·395	1·303	1·336	1·311	1·330	1·333	1·264	1·233	1·203	..

From the foregoing Table it will be noticed that the rate for the administrative County shows a marked increase on the previous year.

Table showing the number of Deaths from Phthisis and Tubercular Diseases, in the various Registration Districts of Wiltshire for fifteen years:—

Registration Districts.		1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	Totals
Amesbury ..	{ Phthisis	6	7	9	6	7	9	6	9	4	2	5	8	6	8	6	98
	{ Tubercular Diseases	2	1	2	1	4	..	2	2	1	2	..	3	1	..	..	21
Bradford-on-Avon ..	{ Phthisis	12	5	11	12	10	12	8	5	9	4	5	10	4	8	9	124
	{ Tubercular Diseases	3	1	2	1	2	1	1	..	1	3	..	2	2	2	..	21
Calne ..	{ Phthisis	7	3	10	10	9	4	2	3	6	6	6	10	11	11	4	102
	{ Tubercular Diseases	1	..	3	3	1	2	..	..	2	..	2	..	1	..	..	15
Chippenham ..	{ Phthisis	28	22	29	26	32	20	23	17	21	17	20	15	14	17	8	309
	{ Tubercular Diseases	3	4	5	2	4	4	2	3	3	4	1	1	2	6	3	47
Cricklade ..	{ Phthisis	15	20	25	16	15	19	16	10	11	19	12	13	8	10	14	223
	{ Tubercular Diseases	1	1	2	4	4	2	3	7	..	4	3	8	6	9	3	57
Devizes ..	{ Phthisis	39	24	29	18	27	22	21	19	20	18	29	29	29	9	14	347
	{ Tubercular Diseases	7	15	6	8	6	6	6	7	6	2	6	8	8	4	2	97
Highworth ..	{ Phthisis	53	67	62	43	48	67	58	46	59	72	69	54	64	66	65	903
	{ Tubercular Diseases	21	21	37	28	20	21	20	21	16	18	16	27	46	21	22	355
Malmesbury ..	{ Phthisis	21	16	14	14	14	18	13	8	14	6	12	12	10	10	12	194
	{ Tubercular Diseases	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	5	5	6	2	2	..	6	4	39
Marlborough ..	{ Phthisis	12	8	7	11	10	8	4	8	12	4	7	3	3	5	8	110
	{ Tubercular Diseases	2	4	2	1	3	4	..	1	1	1	3	..	1	1	2	26
Melksham ..	{ Phthisis	26	14	31	18	10	20	13	11	18	10	16	11	13	10	24	245
	{ Tubercular Diseases	5	2	3	8	2	3	1	4	3	4	2	9	11	5	9	66
Mere ..	{ Phthisis	7	5	7	5	5	7	5	4	5	5	3	3	1	6	4	72
	{ Tubercular Diseases	..	..	4	1	..	1	..	2	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	11
Pewsey ..	{ Phthisis	11	9	8	21	10	5	14	13	17	8	5	14	10	9	13	167
	{ Tubercular Diseases	4	2	4	4	4	2	4	1	3	1	3	5	6	2	6	51
Ramsbury ..	{ Phthisis .. ..	..	..	..	1	6	4	4	4	10	2	8	4	8	6	3	60
	{ Tubercular Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	5	1	8
Salisbury ..	{ Phthisis	53	40	38	42	40	49	36	40	42	41	36	23	14	17	34	545
	{ Tubercular Diseases	7	7	7	9	5	14	9	12	12	9	13	12	13	11	11	151
Tisbury ..	{ Phthisis	8	4	6	8	7	5	6	3	3	7	8	3	4	2	8	82
	{ Tubercular Diseases	1	5	2	2	3	4	2	5	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	37
Warminster ..	{ Phthisis	15	8	14	21	11	13	12	13	9	13	10	7	9	2	7	164
	{ Tubercular Diseases	5	5	4	4	7	6	4	7	2	4	6	2	2	5	5	68
Westbury ..	{ Phthisis	17	6	11	12	9	5	7	11	5	5	8	6	4	4	7	117
	{ Tubercular Diseases	1	3	2	2	1	5	..	..	1	4	1	5	3	7	6	41
Wilton ..	{ Phthisis	11	10	7	7	5	14	10	12	7	5	15	9	4	9	12	137
	{ Tubercular Diseases	..	1	1	4	2	..	2	10	2	2	3	3	2	2	4	38
TOTAL Phthisis ..		341	268	318	291	285	301	258	236	272	244	274	234	216	209	252	3999
TOTAL Tubercular Diseases		65	73	87	78	70	76	57	87	59	67	62	93	107	89	79	1149

The Phthisis Death-rate varied in the Urban Districts from 0·29 per 1000 of the population in Calne to 1·952 per 1000 in Melksham. In the Rural Districts the rate varied from 0·275 per 1000 of the population in the Chippenham District to 1·401 per 1000 of the population in the Highworth District.

During the year 331 persons died from Phthisis, and the various forms of Tubercular Disease in this County; giving a Death-rate from this cause of 1·20 per 1000 of the population. The deaths from Tubercular Disease, were 8·76 per cent. of the deaths from all causes in the County. The rate for England and Wales for 1903 was 11·3 per cent. of the deaths from all causes.

It is to be regretted that the mortality from Phthisis has increased during the year, the chief increase being in the Urban Districts. In one Ward (the Queen's) in Swindon, the mortality rate from this disease is very high, viz., 2·34 per 1000. This Ward is situate on the lower side of the Wilts and Berks Canal, which runs throughout the whole length of it. Though the Medical Officer has not been able to trace any evidence of disease due to pathogenic causes, it is possible that this stagnant water-way may have had an adverse influence upon the health of the locality. But it must be remembered that the Birth-rate of this Ward is the lowest, and the general and infant Death-rate the highest in the Borough. The value of property in this part of the town has decreased, with the result that it is occupied by a lower class population. The Phthisis Death-rate for the whole of Swindon was only ·925 per 1000. The Death-rate from the same cause in the Borough of Devizes was 1·371 per 1000, in Malmesbury 1·063, in Melksham 1·952, in Salisbury 1·307, in Trowbridge 1·319, in Westbury 1·213, and in Wilton 1·347 per 1000. In the Rural Districts, Bradford-on-Avon 1·207 per 1000, Cricklade 1·248, Highworth 1·401, Marlborough 1·099, Pewsey 1·175, Tisbury 1·073, and Wilton 1·220 per 1000 were the highest rates.

The Sanatorium for the out-door treatment of Phthisis at Winsley was opened during the latter part of the year, and there is at present evidence that the cases sent there are much benefited by the treatment. It is hoped and expected that the patients discharged from this Institution will, when they return to their homes, be active apostles of the advantages of the "open window."

A considerable number of specimens of sputum were examined at the County Laboratory for Tuberculosis from various Medical Practitioners of the County, free of all cost.

The facilities offered by the County Laboratory to Medical Practitioners for the examination of sputa should be more fully utilized, as the successful treatment of the disease depends upon its early recognition.

CANCER.

There appears to be a continuous and universal increase in the number of deaths from Cancer throughout England and Wales, and the rate of increase appears to be greater in Wiltshire. But the Death-rates from Cancer, perhaps to a greater extent than any other cause, are more largely influenced by age distribution. The only accurate method of comparing Cancer rates in different districts is to compare them at the various age periods. I have not the material for doing this at my disposal, and with one or two exceptions the districts are too small to give reliable results, except over a very extended period. More than half the deaths from Cancer in the Rural Districts of Wiltshire in 1904 occurred in persons over the age of 65 years, whilst in the Urban Districts of Wiltshire, more than half the deaths from this cause were in persons under 65. In Swindon, there were 18 deaths under, and 11 over 65 years, and in Salisbury 18 under, and 5 over. In Salisbury 12 of these deaths occurred in Public Institutions, probably a considerable proportion of these had been sent there for treatment from the Rural Districts. Only 4 deaths from Cancer occurred during the year in the whole County among persons under the age of 25 years.

It is to be hoped that the investigation now being carried on under the highest authorities will be productive of some good result, and that we shall learn something definite at least as to the cause of the disease, and whether it is infective, and is it communicated by domestic animals, or is it conveyed by animal or vegetable food.

In England and Wales in 1864 the rate was 3·9 per 10,000 living; in 1871 it was 4·2; in 1881, 5·2; in 1891, 6·9; and in 1900 it has risen to 8·3, and in 1901 to 8·42 per 10,000 living. In 1902 it was 8·44, and 8·72 per 10,000 living in 1903.

There has been such a variation of the Wiltshire County Boundary that figures of any comparative value are not obtainable earlier than about 1890. I have calculated the Cancer rates for each year of the period 1890-1904. The rates for the census years 1891 and 1901 when we are dealing with an enumerated population are 7·5 and 7·9 per 10,000 persons living; whilst the rate in 1902 was 8·74 per 10,000 estimated living; in 1903 it was 7·76 per 10,000 estimated living, and 9·30 per 10,000 estimated living in 1904.

The rates for many of the Districts of the County of Wilts for 1904 were considerably above the average rate for England and Wales. In the Urban Districts: Chippenham 15·35; Devizes 10·66; Marlborough 15·39; Salisbury 13·07; Warminster 10·82; Westbury 15·17; and Wilton 13·47 per 10,000 living. In the Rural Districts: Amesbury 16·11; Bradford-on-Avon 20·12; Cricklade and Wootton Bassett 12·48; Devizes 11·54; Highworth 9·11; Malmesbury 13·39; Melksham 9·03; Mere 11·89; Ramsbury 8·80; Tisbury 10·73; Warminster 10·23; Westbury and Whorwellsdown 14·32; and Wilton 10·84 per 10,000 living.

The following table shows the number of deaths from Cancer in each Registration District of the County of Wilts, years 1890-1904 :—

Registration Districts.	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	Total.
Amesbury ..	4	5	3	6	7	4	6	7	3	2	5	7	3	11	14	87
Bradford-on-Avon	9	4	5	6	5	7	5	12	4	7	11	6	11	7	12	111
Calne ..	8	9	6	8	6	2	6	9	8	2	12	4	10	6	6	102
Chippenham ..	20	16	16	20	10	17	12	11	16	25	18	19	18	19	12	249
Cricklade ..	7	9	6	9	13	10	9	9	5	13	11	8	11	4	14	138
Devizes ..	21	12	22	18	23	16	20	20	18	17	19	21	17	16	22	282
Highworth ..	29	27	19	26	24	25	27	38	21	40	41	32	44	29	42	464
Malmesbury ..	4	11	5	7	14	10	14	7	8	15	10	10	14	7	15	151
Marlborough ..	10	4	8	7	10	11	11	7	7	5	9	11	6	14	9	129
Melksham ..	18	18	15	14	17	14	12	16	23	15	19	14	17	17	14	243
Mere ..	6	4	9	4	7	5	7	4	2	2	5	4	5	8	6	78
Pewsey ..	7	7	7	10	7	12	16	9	12	9	10	3	12	10	5	136
Ramsbury ..	5	6	5	6	5	3	7	2	3	6	6	6	9	6	6	81
Salisbury ..	29	28	27	27	40	27	31	36	32	32	42	27	20	24	33	455
Tisbury ..	7	9	5	5	13	4	4	9	6	4	10	9	6	7	8	106
Warminster ..	11	12	12	10	16	10	14	10	6	11	15	12	14	9	12	174
Westbury ..	9	7	10	4	11	10	6	6	10	12	5	11	9	14	14	138
Wilton ..	5	6	9	5	7	11	5	6	7	8	5	5	12	4	11	106
TOTAL....Cancer..	209	194	189	192	235	198	212	218	191	225	253	209	238	212	255	3230

Respiratory Diseases Mortality.—The number of Deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy together, registered in the Administrative County amounted to 559, of which 254 were in the Urban Districts, and 305 in the Rural Districts.

The following table shows the Death-rate from Respiratory Disease per 1000 of the population of the whole County for the combined Urban and Rural Districts for the years 1895-1904.

AREAS.		1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Administrative County	No. of Deaths	763	561	591	621	794	656	595	607	502	559
	Rate per 1000	2.82	2.06	2.15	2.35	2.84	2.41	2.19	2.22	1.83	2.03
Combined Urban Districts.	No. of Deaths	290	224	232	232	363	240	264	255	226	254
	Rate per 1000	2.78	2.19	2.14	2.10	3.25	2.13	2.34	2.22	1.94	2.16
Combined Rural Districts.	No. of Deaths	473	337	359	389	431	416	331	352	276	305
	Rate per 1000	2.85	2.03	2.10	2.34	2.60	2.62	2.08	2.23	1.75	1.94

GENERAL EPIDEMIC MORTALITY.—The total number of deaths from Epidemic Diseases in the whole Administrative County was 226 of which 121 occurred in the Urban Districts, and 105 in the Rural Districts; under the head of "Epidemic" are included Small Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Typhus, Enteric Fever, Simple or Continued Fever, Diarrhœa and Dysentery, and Cholera.

The following Table shows the total mortality from the principal "Epidemic" Diseases for the Administrative County, and for the combined Urban and Rural Districts respectively for the years 1895-1904, and also for comparative purposes the rate for England and Wales for the years 1892-1904.

AREAS.		1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Administrative County	No. of Deaths ..	..	..	..	202	218	302	225	364	201	175	274	130	226
	Rate per 1000 ..	..	..	..	·74	·80	1·10	1·8	1·30	·74	·64	1·00	·47	·82
Combined Urban Districts	No. of Deaths ..	..	..	..	82	99	156	127	201	80	99	128	69	121
	Rate per 1000 ..	..	..	..	·78	·93	1·44	1·15	1·77	·71	·87	1·11	·59	1·02
Combined Rural Districts	No. of Deaths ..	..	..	..	120	119	146	98	163	121	76	146	61	105
	Rate per 1000 ..	..	..	..	·72	·71	·88	·59	·98	·76	·37	·92	·38	·67
England and Wales	Rate per 1000 ..	2·0	2·5	1·7	2·1	2·18	2·15	2·22	2·21	1·57	2·05	1·64	1·46	1·94

It will be observed that the Epidemic mortality was considerably below the average rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1904, but there is a marked increase in the rate for the Administrative County as compared with the rate of 1903.

The Epidemic Death-rate in the Swindon, Trowbridge, and Wilton Urban Districts exceeded the mean rate for the combined Urban Districts, and that of Bradford-on-Avon, Calne, Chippenham, Cricklade, Highworth, Pewsey, and Warminster Rural Districts exceeded the mean rate for the combined Rural Districts. The only District which exceeded the mean rate for England and Wales was the Bradford-on-Avon Rural District.

NOTIFICATION AND MORTALITY FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year I have received each month from every District a return showing the number of cases of Infectious Disease in each parish of the County, and have published the same regularly in the County Notification Summary, a copy of which is sent to each Medical Officer of Health, the Superintendent of the County Asylum, &c., &c., during the first week of each month. The following Table is compiled from these returns, with the object of showing the seasonal rise and fall in the incidence of the various Diseases.

Monthly totals of reported cases of Infectious Disease, during each month and quarter of the year 1904 :—

DISEASES.	Year 1901	Year 1902	Year 1903	Year 1904	Jan	Feb	Mar	1st Qr.	Apl	May	J'ne	2nd Qr.	July	Aug	Sep	3rd Qr.	Oct	Nov	Dec	4th Qr.
Small Pox ..	4	1	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	924	1200	1121	858	107	51	60	218	79	108	58	245	61	52	61	174	95	83	43	221
Diphtheria ..	193	332	332	419	43	33	34	110	41	45	35	121	28	21	20	69	44	50	25	119
Membranous Croup	6	7	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	214	169	123	153	8	6	12	26	10	13	5	28	11	17	10	38	23	15	23	61
Typhus Fever ..	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	74	43	41	29	3	4	6	13	1	4	1	6	1	2	1	4	3	..	3	6
Continued Fever ..	1	5	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	14	12	11	8	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	3	1	1	5
Totals ..	1435	1770	1638	1474	161	95	112	368	132	171	100	403	101	95	95	291	168	149	95	412

The figures in the above Table, taken from the monthly returns of the Medical Officers do not in all cases compare with the figures given by the Medical Officers of Health on Table III of the Local Government Board forms which are tabulated on Tables 3a and 3b of this report.

In the following remarks and rates of Infectious Disease I will confine myself to the figures contained in the tables accompanying the Annual Reports of the Medical Officers of Health.

SMALL POX.

The County was remarkably free from this disease during the year, only 2 cases being notified, both being within the jurisdiction of the Military Authorities on Salisbury Plain. Fortunately, both cases were recognised in an early stage of the disease, and, as is usual in Military Camps, stringent measures taken to prevent a spread. Unfortunately, in some districts in the County, a considerable proportion of the children are unprotected by vaccination, and if perchance the disease escapes the vigilance of the Medical Officers of Health and once gets firmly established, the results will be most disastrous. One of the cases notified occurred in a vagrant, and indeed this disease is now mainly introduced by this class. In November I attended, as a delegate from the County Council, a Conference, called by the London County Council, held in London, to consider the question of the spread of Infectious Disease by vagrants.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Conference :—

GENERAL MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE BY VAGRANTS.

(1) (a) That this Conference of Urban and Sanitary Authorities of England and Wales recognises the increasing amount of habitual vagrancy as the cause of widespread and disastrous consequences to the public health, and is of opinion that much more effective measures than are at present adopted should be taken for preventing the spread of infectious disease by vagrants, and for effectually dealing with this great and growing danger.

(b) That the evil can only be met by conferring further powers upon the local authorities, viz., the sanitary authority, the board of guardians, and the magistracy.

(2) That means should be provided for the detention and isolation of any vagrant found wandering in a public place, if reasonably suspected of being liable to convey infectious disease.

(3) That this Conference is of opinion that it is desirable that

(a) Parliamentary powers should be sought for the compulsory vaccination and re-vaccination of all vagrants unable to produce proof of being sufficiently protected against smallpox on entering casual wards or common lodging-houses, who in the opinion of the sanitary authority, have been exposed to the infection of small-pox, and also that sanitary authorities should have power to grant such compensation as they think necessary to persons vaccinated or re-vaccinated at their request who may be prevented on that account from work;

(b) It should be an offence to withhold information or make false statements to the sanitary authority in carrying out its powers with respect to the disease.

(4) That in order to deal effectually with the transmission of notifiable infectious disease by tramps, power should be given to County Councils to enforce the existing laws in all cases where sanitary authorities in the county refuse or neglect to do so.

(5) That the Local Government Board should obtain powers to secure weekly returns of all cases of infectious disease from all central authorities throughout the country, and circulate the same.

(6) That it is desirable that in districts comprising groups of counties and county boroughs, intelligence bureaux should be established, to which information should be sent from sanitary authorities and workhouses in the district, of persons of the wandering class who have been exposed to the infection of small-pox; and that a printed copy of such information should be distributed from the bureau to every sanitary authority and board of guardians in the district, and that the expense of working the bureau should be met by contributions from the county councils and county boroughs forming the district.

(7) That this Conference is of opinion that the port sanitary authorities should be authorised to take more stringent precautions to prevent the importation of disease by persons arriving by vessel at the ports who are suffering from small-pox, or who have been exposed to infection by that disease

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND CASUAL WARDS.

(8) That the local authority should have increased control over common lodging-houses, their keepers, and occupants. Thus the local authority should have power—

(a) to medically examine the inmates.

(b) to detain and isolate persons exposed to infection and to disinfect them and their clothes.

(c) to temporarily close a common lodging-house in whole or in part, compensation to be given to the keeper of the house.

(9) That the local authority should have power to order the keeper of a common lodging-house in which there has been infectious disease to refuse fresh admissions for such time as may be required by the authority.

(10) That the local authority should be empowered to require medical examination and disinfection of all persons entering casual wards.

(11) That the local sanitary authority should have power to require the removal and isolation of any inmate of a casual ward who may reasonably be suspected of being liable to convey infectious disease.

(12) That the local authority should have full power to require the cleansing of the person and the disinfection of the clothes of any person in a casual ward, whether infected or exposed to infection.

LABOUR BUREAUX.

(13) (a) That the time has arrived when the Local Government Board should promote legislation for the establishment of labour bureaux in the areas of every county council and every county borough council.

(b) That this Conference is also of opinion that it is desirable that a national voluntary agency should be formed for assisting *bona-fide* working men while travelling through the country in search of work, and that such agency should be worked on the same lines as the Inter-Cantonal Union of Switzerland for the relief of poor travellers.

(14) That the unemployed travelling *bona-fide* in search of work, not being habitual vagrants, should not be treated as vagrants, but as far as possible be assisted to obtain employment.

LABOUR COLONIES.

(15) That the time has arrived when the Local Government Board should promote legislation for the establishment of labour colonies for the compulsory detention of habitual vagrants until they have acquired power to work and self restraint.

(16) That this Conference approves and affirms the resolutions passed by the executive council of the Association of Poor Law Unions in England and Wales at their meeting in September, 1903, as follows:—

(a) That boards of guardians should be grouped in suitable areas to provide labour colonies for vagrants.

(b) That such colonies should be established and governed by the joint committees of the Boards of Guardians of the Unions in the said areas.

(c) That habitual vagrants should be sent to such labour colonies by magistrates.

(d) That the expenses of each colony should be spread over the unions in the areas served by such colonies.

CHILDREN OF VAGRANTS.

(17) That the powers of the poor law guardians under the Poor Law Acts of 1889 and 1899 to assume and exercise, in certain circumstances, parental rights over the children of pauper parents, should be extended so as to confer similar rights over the children of habitual vagrants.

GENERALLY.

(18) That, in order to give practical effect to the foregoing resolutions, this Conference is in favour of uniting with the County Councils Association, the Association of Municipal Corporations, the Association of Metropolitan Borough Councils, the Magistracy, and the Association of Poor Law Unions of England and Wales for the following purposes, viz:—(a) To enlist the sympathy and co-operation of members of Parliament; (b) to appoint representatives to wait on the Local Government Board; (c) to give evidence before the Inter-Departmental Committee of the Government on the Vagrancy Question; (d) to take such other measures as may be thought desirable in support of the resolutions arrived at by the Conference.

That a Committee be appointed to give effect to this resolution.

SCARLET FEVER.

There was a considerable reduction in the incidence of this disease in the county throughout the year. Cases were notified from all the Urban Districts with the exception of Bradford-on-Avon and Malmesbury, and all the Rural Districts with the exception of the two parishes of Tetbury in Wiltshire. But only 872 cases were reported, as against 1,151 in 1903, there being 318 fewer in the Urban Districts than in 1903. 349 were in the Urban Districts, as against 667 in 1903, 211 being notified from Swindon, 40 from Trowbridge, 31 from Chippenham, and 19 from Westbury. In the Rural Districts 523 cases were notified, against 484 in 1903, namely 17 Amesbury, 93 Chippenham, 37 Cricklade, 39 Devizes, 119 Highworth, 54 Malmesbury, 28 Mere, 21 Pewsey, 18 Warminster, and 35 Westbury.

The sickness rate from this disease was 3·18 per 1,000 of the population of the County. The mortality was low, only 18 deaths being registered in the whole County, namely, 9 in the Urban and 9 in the Rural Districts—giving a mortality of 2·06 per cent. of the notified cases, or a death-rate from this cause of 0·065 per 1,000 of the population of the County. During the year 1898 there were 646 cases notified, the death-rate being 0·035 per 1000 of the population. The mortality in the year 1899 was 2·78 per cent. of the notified cases, and the death-rate 0·035 per 1000 of the population. In 1900 the mortality was 0·63 per cent. of the notified cases, and the death-rate 0·0011 per 1000 of the population; in 1901 the mortality was 1·17 per cent. of the notified cases, and the death-rate 0·045 per 1000 of the population; in 1902 it was 1·61 per cent. of the notified cases, and the death-rate 0·073 per 1000 of the population; and in 1903 it was 2·08 per cent. of the notified cases, and the death-rate 0·087 per 1000 of the population of the County.

The death-rate from Scarlet Fever in England and Wales in 1899-1900 was 0·12 per 1000 of the population; in 1901 the rate was 0·13; in 1902 it was 0·15; in 1903 it was 0·12, and in 1904 it was 0·11 per 1000; thus the rates for Wiltshire compare very favourably with those of England and Wales.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Four hundred and sixteen cases were notified, of which 1 was notified as Membranous Croup. Cases were notified from all the Urban Districts with the exception of Bradford-on-Avon, Malmesbury, and Westbury, and all the Rural Districts with the exception of Malmesbury, and the 2 parishes of Tetbury in Wiltshire. 236 of the cases were in the Urban Districts, against 137 in 1903, and 180 in the Rural Districts, against 206 in 1903. 60 deaths were registered, 30 in the Urban and 30 in the Rural Districts, giving a mortality of 14·42 per cent. of the cases notified. The death-rate from this cause for the Administrative County was 0·218 per 1000 of the population. The death-rate in 1903 was 0·157, in 1902 it was 0·1909, in 1901 it was 0·099, and in 1900 it was 0·173 per 1000 of the population. The death-rate from this cause in England and Wales was 0·17 per 1000 of the population for the year 1904, 0·18 per 1000 for the year 1903, 0·23 per 1000 for the year 1902, 0·27 per 1000 for the year 1901, and for the year 1900 it was 0·29 per 1000.

Of the 236 cases notified in the Urban Districts, 10 were reported from Chippenham, 37 from Salisbury, 149 from Swindon, 13 from Trowbridge, and 19 from Wilton. Of the 180 cases in the Rural Districts 39 were reported from Chippenham, 56 from Cricklade, 20 from Highworth, 14 from Mere, and 10 from Wilton. The deaths in the Urban Districts occurred at Chippenham 1, Salisbury 2, Swindon 20, Trowbridge 4, and Wilton 3. In the Rural Districts—Bradford-on-Avon 2, Chippenham 9, Cricklade 8, Highworth 2, Melksham 2, Mere 1, Pewsey 1, Salisbury 2, Tisbury 1, and Warminster 2.

The case mortality from Diphtheria varied very much in the County, indicating either that the virulence of the disease was much greater in some districts than in others, or possibly that a large number of mild unrecognised cases occurred in other districts that were not notified. There can be no excuse for failure in diagnosis of this disease in Wiltshire, as Medical Officers of Health are upon application supplied gratis from the County Laboratory with outfits for collecting material for bacteriological examination, and these examinations are made free of all cost to the District Council. From some districts, material from the majority of suspected cases is sent in to the County Laboratory for report, whilst from other districts no material whatever is sent. The case mortality in the Urban Districts was as follows:—Trowbridge 30·7 per cent., Wilton 15·8 per cent., Swindon 13·5 per cent., Chippenham 10 per cent., and Salisbury 5·4 per cent., whilst in Calne, Devizes, Marlborough, Melksham, and Warminster all the cases notified recovered. In the Rural Districts the case mortality was:—Tisbury (1 case) 100 per cent., Melksham 40 per cent., Warminster 40 per cent., Pewsey 33·3 per cent., Salisbury 28·5 per cent., Chippenham 23 per cent., Bradford-on-Avon 22·2 per cent., Cricklade 14·2 per cent., Highworth 10 per cent., Mere 7·1 per cent. In Amesbury, Calne, Devizes, Marlborough, Ramsbury, Westbury and Wilton Districts, all the cases notified recovered.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID AND CONTINUED FEVER.

This disease did not appear in epidemic form in any part of the County during the year, and fewer cases were notified than in 1903. 33 cases in all were notified, as compared with 48 cases in 1903, of which 9 occurred in the Urban Districts, and 24 in the Rural Districts. 2 of the Urban cases and 4 of the Rural cases terminated fatally, giving a case mortality of 18·18 per cent. The death-rate from this cause was 0·021 per 1000 of the population, which compares very favourably with the rate of 0·09 for England and Wales. Of the 9 cases notified in the Urban Districts 1 occurred at Bradford-on-Avon, 3 cases occurred at Swindon with 1 death, and 5 at Trowbridge (1 death). Of the 24 cases in the Rural Districts, 5 occurred in the Amesbury District, 3 Bradford-on-Avon (1 death), 1 Chippenham, 1 Devizes, 1 Highworth, 2 Mere, 4 Pewsey (3 deaths), 6 Salisbury, and 1 Wilton.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

There were 12 cases notified, 2 in the Urban Districts and 10 in the Rural Districts. 1 of the Urban cases and 4 of the Rural cases died. In the Urban Districts the 2 cases were notified from Salisbury with 1 death. In the Rural Districts 1 case was notified in the Chippenham District, 2 cases notified in the Cricklade District with 2 deaths, 3 cases notified from Devizes with 1 death, 1 case notified from Melksham, 1 case from Mere with 1 death, 1 case from Ramsbury, and 1 case notified in the Westbury District.

MEASLES.

This disease was much more prevalent throughout the County during the year than in 1903, there being 67 deaths, as compared with 7 in 1903, 39 occurred in the Urban Districts—Devizes 4, Marlborough 2, Salisbury 3, and Swindon 30; and 28 in the Rural Districts—Bradford-on-Avon 1, Calne 1, Cricklade 2, Devizes 3, Highworth 6, Malmesbury 1, Mere 1, Pewsey 11, and Salisbury 2.

The death-rate for the Administrative County from this cause was 0·244 per 1000 of the population, whilst the rate for England and Wales was 0·36.

During the fourteen years 1891-1904 there were 169,437 deaths from Measles in England and Wales, and 678 in the County of Wilts.

The fact that Measles is highly infective for some three days before the rash appears, militates seriously against the success of efforts made to limit this disease. The highest mortality from Measles is under the age of five years, and if the age of attack is postponed until after five years, the mortality is greatly decreased. The school attendance of infants at age periods when they are particularly liable to infection is undoubtedly responsible for the propagation of epidemics, and consequently a large proportion of the preventible deaths. It is now recognised by Medical Officers of Health that it is undesirable for children under five years of age to attend school, owing to the many disadvantages and dangers of early school attendance.

Measles is now only notifiable in two districts in the county, viz., Devizes Borough, and in the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District; in the former no less than 595 cases were notified during the year, in the latter 265 cases. At Devizes, out of the 595 cases notified there were only 4 deaths, or a case mortality of ·67 per cent. This, I think can be attributed to the fact that the epidemic occurred in June 38 cases, July 299 cases, and August 237 cases, when the tendency to complication with Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases is not so great as during the winter and spring months. During the year there were only 5 deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia in the Devizes District among children under 5 years of age. In the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett District 2 deaths from Measles were registered, but there were no less than 20 deaths registered from Bronchitis and Pneumonia. Measles is essentially a disease of early life, and of the 67 deaths which occurred in Wiltshire in 1904 no less than 14 were in infants under one year of age, 38 in children under 5 years of age, and 15 in children over 5 years of age.

Experience has shown the futility of the Compulsory Notification of Measles, unless the authorities are prepared to provide a very large sanitary staff and enormous isolation hospitals. On the other hand if we are to avoid these enormous epidemics of Measles it is necessary that the Infant Schools should be closed and all children under 5 or 6 years of age excluded from the Public Elementary Schools. When outbreaks of Measles occur in any district, cards should be distributed giving the rules and precautions that should be observed by the householders to prevent a spread of the disease. If the small expense can be legally incurred by the Education Authority I am sure that it would be recouped a hundredfold in the lives saved, and the reduction in the interference with education produced by the occurrence of epidemics.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Twenty-three deaths were registered from this cause, compared with 16 in 1903; and 60 in 1902; giving a death-rate for the County of 0·083 per 1000 of the population. The death-rate in this County in 1903 was 0·58, in 1902 it was 0·22, in 1901 it was 0·18, in 1900 it was 0·068, and in 1899 it was 0·25. The rate for England and Wales in 1904 was 0·34, in 1903 it was 0·27, for 1902 it was 0·29, 1901 0·30, and for 1900 0·34.

DIARRHŒA.

This disease was more fatal than in 1903, 52 deaths occurring, against 31 in 1903, equal to a death-rate of 0·189 per 1000 of the population. The rate for England and Wales for 1904 was 0·86 per 1000, and for England and Wales, less the large towns, the rate was 0·46.

In the Urban Districts the greatest mortality was at Swindon, where the death-rate from this cause was 0·226; and in the Rural Districts the greatest mortality was in the Bradford-on-Avon District, the death-rate being 1·006. In the Rural Districts of Amesbury, Marlborough, Melksham, Mere, Tisbury, Warminster, Westbury there were no deaths registered from this cause.

The following Table shows the number of deaths from Diarrhœa for the past 12 years :

	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Combined Urban Districts ..	45	21	42	24	32	66	110	34	35	16	14	30
Combined Rural Districts ..	25	13	33	27	35	33	57	33	23	30	17	22
Administrative County ..	70	34	75	51	67	99	167	67	58	46	31	52

ISOLATION HOSPITALS AND DISINFECTION.

There has been during the past few years considerable discussion as to the desirability of providing Isolation Hospitals, and statistics have been freely used to illustrate the advantages and disadvantages. It is not a question that can be decided by statistics or comparison of the results obtained by isolation in one town or district with those obtained in another. The eminent Medical Officer of Health of one of the large English combinations puts the matter in its right aspect when he says: "In a large or moderately large house there is usually a room that can be set aside for the isolation of any member of the household who is attacked with an illness of an infectious character, and removal to a Hospital is not urgently necessary. But in the case of a cottage all the available sleeping room is mostly fully occupied, and the Hospital must be regarded as the working man's spare room. It is for this class of case that I consider an Isolation Hospital is more particularly required in a rural district."

The obligation placed upon milk producers in so many of the contracts now entered upon, of immediately declaring to the purchaser the presence of any form of infectious disease in his own household or that of his employes, increases the necessity of these Hospitals, as until the infected are removed and the premises disinfected the milk will not be received. The decision given in a case before the High Court and recently confirmed by the Court of Appeal renders the vendor liable for heavy damages where it is shown that infection has been conveyed by milk or any other article of food.

Very few of the districts in the county have made any provision for the isolation of Small Pox cases, trusting from their past immunity from the disease to be able to provide temporary accommodation when the occasion arises. I fear that some of these will have a rude awakening, and for want of a place in which to isolate the first case or cases epidemics will result, when money will, as in all such cases, be squandered in a panic.

The Joint Hospital for the Bradford-on-Avon Urban and Rural, Melksham Urban and Rural, Trowbridge Urban, and Westbury Urban and Rural Authorities, is rapidly approaching completion. There have been several instances during the year in these districts where the necessity for Isolation Hospital accommodation has been keenly felt. The site for the erection of temporary accommodation for Small Pox at Hilperton has been obtained.

CALNE.—This Hospital is now in a very satisfactory condition. Fortunately the incidence of infectious disease in the Urban and Rural Districts was remarkably low during the year, and only required the removal of very few cases to the Hospital. The Medical Officer of Health says since 1889 there have been many outbreaks of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, in the suppression of which the present Hospital has played a most important part.

CHIPPENHAM.—This Hospital was extensively used during the year. The overcrowding which existed so badly in 1903 has not been repeated. The connecting passage between the administrative block and main pavilion should be removed without delay. There is an urgent necessity for an enlargement and improvement in the laundry arrangements of this Hospital. The disinfecting apparatus should be enlarged, so that clothing and bedding from infected houses could be removed for more efficient disinfection than that which is at present obtained.

CRICKLADE.—This Hospital was extensively used during the year for Diphtheria patients. The necessity for an improvement in the laundry and disinfecting arrangements is very obvious.

DEVIZES.—The Joint Hospital for the Devizes Urban and Rural Districts is now completed, and will be opened at an early date. The house rented at Stert has been taken for another year as a Small Pox Hospital.

MALMESBURY.—The Rural Authority shares with the Urban District Council the proprietorship of a small wooden erection at Backbridge, Malmesbury. There is accommodation for about six patients in two wards opening one into the other. The sanitary arrangements and water supply are primitive. There is a want of a cooking apparatus, wash-house and bath. The building, although erected in 1896, has only been used on one occasion, when a mother was permitted to take her child there and nurse it herself.

MARLBOROUGH.—The Hospital is in excellent order, both as to the Wards, Disinfecting Apparatus, and Outhouses. The Medical Officer of Health points out that the Disinfector is not suitably constructed for an Infectious Hospital, as the infected articles have to go in at the same door as that through which the articles when disinfected come out. Better means of obtaining hot water is necessary at the Hospital, the two geysers at present in use being unsatisfactory. There were fewer cases of Infectious Diseases necessitating treatment than for many years past.

SALISBURY.—Salisbury Urban and Rural and Wilton Urban and Rural Authorities have now been joined for the formation of an Isolation Hospital District, and efforts are being made to obtain a site upon which to erect a suitable Hospital. The Temporary Hospital on Three Mile Hill is still retained by the Urban Authority, but the necessity for the removal of many patients did not arise. The Wooden Small-Pox Hospital near the Race Course is maintained in a satisfactory condition, so that first cases of Small Pox may be isolated. Arrangements should be made by which the Wilton Urban and Rural Authorities could have the use of this Hospital if Small Pox turns up in their District.

TROWBRIDGE.—The Temporary Hospital was used for 23 cases during the year. Of these 2 died.

WARMINSTER.—10 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Cottages used as a Hospital by this Authority. No arrangements have yet been made for the provision of accommodation for the treatment of Small Pox.

SWINDON AND HIGHWORTH JOINT HOSPITAL.—The accommodation of this Hospital was taxed during the year. 125 cases, viz., Diphtheria 15, Scarlet Fever 109, Enteric Fever 1, were removed from the Rural District, whilst from the town of Swindon 335 cases were removed to Hospital, viz., Diphtheria 134, Scarlet Fever 199, Enteric Fever 2. The mortality amongst the cases removed to Hospital was very low. Of the 308 cases of Scarlet Fever removed to Hospital, only 6 died; and of the 149 cases of Diphtheria only 14 died. Some of the latter were in a moribund state when removed to Hospital.

WATER SUPPLY.

Considerable advance has been made during the year by the various authorities in the County in the matter of improving the Water Supply.

Urban Districts.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON.—Except for two months in the Autumn the supply was adequate.

CALNE.—The supply from the Company's Mains was ample.

CHIPPENHAM.—There was an ample and constant supply of pure water. A new reservoir is in course of construction which will increase the storage and pressure for the higher parts of the Town.

DEVIZES.—The supply was constant, but the average level of the water in the wells was very low towards the end of the year. The alterations decided upon in 1892, to sink a fresh well and the driving of a tunnel to connect the two wells have not yet been begun.

MALMESBURY.—The supply has been ample.

MARLBOROUGH.—Satisfactory as regards quality and quantity.

MELKSHAM.—Satisfactory as regards quality and quantity. Some inconvenience was caused by the breaking of mains caused by the drainage operations.

SALISBURY.—The Medical Officer evidently considers the supply so satisfactory that he does not mention the question of Water Supply in his Annual Report.

TROWBRIDGE.—The public supply satisfactory as regards quality and quantity. A number of wells more or less polluted are still in use in the Town, and such as are dangerously polluted should be closed without delay.

WARMINSTER.—Supply and purity satisfactory.

WESTBURY.—Public supply satisfactory. Some polluted wells have been closed.

WILTON.—Supply abundant, quality excellent.

Rural Districts.

AMESBURY.—Nothing further has been done towards providing a public supply for Amesbury.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON.—Scarcity of water at Westwood, Monkton Farleigh and Wraxall. The Westwood scheme is still unsettled.

CALNE.—Supplies generally satisfactory.

CHIPPENHAM.—Short supply in many parishes owing to dry season. The public supplies are of good quality and almost constant.

CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT.—The scheme for Cricklade is in course of construction. The supply at Wootton Bassett was very restricted for some time during the year. In many other places there is a great need of a proper water supply, the cottagers drinking from ponds and roadside ditches.

DEVIZES.—There have been some improvements during the year, and on the whole the supplies are fairly satisfactory.

HIGHWORTH.—The Highworth public water supply has been completed, and it will be necessary to take steps here and at Wanborough to close the polluted wells. The supply for Stratton St. Margaret, promised by the Swindon Corporation, has not yet been provided. Pressure should be put upon the Corporation to carry out their self imposed obligation.

MALMESBURY.—The public supply at Sherston has now been completed, and there is an excellent supply of pure water. The supply at Oaksey is unsatisfactory. There should be more rapid progress in solving the problem of providing a proper supply. A strongly worded report on this subject was circulated to the Sanitary Committee in April, 1904.

MARLBOROUGH.—Generally the supplies are fairly satisfactory.

MELKSHAM.—On the whole the supplies are now fairly satisfactory. There was the usual scarcity in parts of Seend and Seend Cleeve.

MERE.—There is a necessity for a better supply for West Knoyle. The scheme for providing a supply for Mere and the surrounding parishes appears to be hung up again. A report on the West Knoyle supply was presented by the Medical Officer of Health to the Mere Rural District Council, in November, 1904, in which he says the water supply of the village "is uncertain in quantity, bad in quality, and quite unfit for domestic use."

PEWSEY.—No progress has been made with the scheme for providing a proper water supply for Pewsey village. The Ludgershall Water Company have done little to expedite this scheme.

RAMSBURY.—Supplies from Wells, for the most part of fair quality.

SALISBURY.—No further steps have been taken with regard to the supply projected for Odstock, Nunton, and Bodenham.

TISBURY.—A scheme for the supply of the town of Tisbury is now awaiting the approval of the Local Government Board. A good supply for the Semley district has been provided by private enterprise.

WARMINSTER.—A scheme for the supply of Upton Scudamore is awaiting the approval of the Local Government Board.

WESTBURY.—Steeple Ashton is still without a proper supply of water. The water in the present wells has been pronounced dangerous. No progress has yet been made with regard to the Chapmanslade supply.

WILTON.—The public supplies in the district are satisfactory as regards quality and quantity.

HOUSE DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND RIVER POLLUTION.

The question of sewage disposal is at present one of considerable importance in the county, some of the schemes having just approached completion, and others are in contemplation. Some of the works give fairly satisfactory results, but even the best of them admit of considerable improvement. There can be no doubt that the bacteriological method of treatment is far in advance of the old chemical precipitation methods. But from the results in this and adjoining counties it is clear that where considerable quantities of trade refuse, especially brewery and dairy refuse, has to be treated with domestic sewage, that some process of sedimentation will require to be adopted. When the septic tank was introduced we were told that the "sludge" problem had been solved, and that there would be no more "sludge," but experience has shown that with the majority of works, a considerable quantity of "sludge" is collected in the tanks and has to be dealt with. The great difficulty experienced by authorities with regard to contact beds has been the provision of material for filling the beds. Good sound hard well burnt clinker, perhaps the best material for filling these beds, has been extremely difficult to obtain, at a price within the borrowing powers of the authorities. Experiments for an extended period were carried out at the Devizes sewage works by Mr. Dibden, F.I.C., with slate refuse as the material, and the results have been sufficiently satisfactory to obtain the consent of the Local Government Board for a loan for the use of this material in filling the new beds in course of construction.

Urban Districts.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON.—The works of this district were completed and put into use. Unfortunately in August, after a period of excessive rainfall, a portion of these works collapsed. There has been considerable

controversy as to the cause of the collapse. Unfortunately nothing has been done in the way of repair. A number of special reports have been written upon this subject and the matter is still *sub judice*.

CALNE.—These works although dealing with an abnormal proportion of slaughter house and other offensive refuse, very difficult under most circumstances to deal with, continue to give fairly satisfactory results. No complaints have been received of nuisance, and with the careful management, the land is not yet “sewage sick.”

CHIPPENHAM.—The contract for the new system of main sewers and sewage disposal works has been made and the work is now in hand.

DEVIZES.—The alterations in the sewage works by the construction of open contact beds have been proceeding during the year. The temporary experimental contact beds filled with slate refuse have worked well, reports on them having been made from time to time by Mr. Dibden, F.I.C., of a satisfactory character. It has been decided to fill, or partially fill, the coarse beds with this material, the total cost of the works being much larger than the original estimate. There is a decided improvement in the condition of the Poulshot stream since the whole of the sewage has been treated at the works.

MALMESBURY.—The scheme for sewerage and sewage disposal for this town has been prepared and submitted to the Local Government Board, but on account of the cost being said to be in excess of the borrowing powers of the borough the scheme has been sent back to be revised and cheapened. The Medical Officer of Health in his report for this town, says:—“That part of the river between the bridge by the Railway Station and the Abbey Mill requires attention during the drought of summer, also the Back brook should be more or less flushed.”

MARLBOROUGH.—The out-fall works have been completed and are now working. The success or otherwise of these works can only be shown after the whole of the house connections have been made. Eight filter beds in groups of four are provided. The average number of filter beds treated at present per day has been $3\frac{1}{2}$. The maximum number after a thunderstorm is 8. All the beds are now working well. The storm water over-flow which comes into action when the sewage is diluted to six times the estimated average dry weather flow, had not been used to the end of the year. On the old sewer rain water has not yet been separated from the sewers. On the new sewers as much rain water as is practicable is separated.

MELKSHAM.—The new scheme for this town is now in course of construction. Considerable difficulties have been met with which must have been a source of great anxiety to the ratepayers.

SALISBURY.—As a condition of the enlargement of the borough it was necessary that an extensive scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal should be adopted. A considerable amount of evidence upon this point was taken at the borough extension enquiry, when the scheme of Sir Alexander Binnie was propounded. The contract for the works (June, 1905) has just been let.

SWINDON.—The effluent from the Rodbourne sewage farm not meeting with the approval of the Thames Conservancy, and the evidence of pollution of the Ray being unanswerable, proceedings were taken against the Swindon Council by the Thames Conservators. These proceedings were suspended on the Corporation giving an undertaking to extend their works and put them into a satisfactory condition. The scheme is now awaiting a Local Government enquiry. Apart from the question of river pollution there was a considerable amount of ærial nuisance during the year, and rightly or wrongly, the great incidence of infectious disease in the ward near which the works are situated, was attributed to the condition of the sewage farm. The effluent from the Broome works, which are entirely on the bacteriological system, continues to be satisfactory.

TROWBRIDGE.—A start has been made with the new works for this town and very considerable progress has been made.

WARMINSTER.—No complaints have been received about these works.

WESTBURY.—Nothing has been done here, and the sewage which is increasing in quantity and becoming more offensive from the presence of an increased quantity of water closet refuse, is discharged from such sewers as exist into the streams and ditches. A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for this town is inevitable in the early future.

WILTON.—The river is still being polluted by the discharge of crude sewage. Considerable difficulty has been experienced during the year, as in previous years, by the stoppages in the town sewers. Arrangements have now been made with the Rural District Council to treat the sewage from the town at the proposed works at Bemerton. A scheme for the sewerage of the town and approval of the suggestion to join the Rural District is now awaiting the approval of the Local Government Board.

Rural Districts.

AMESBURY.—The scheme for sewerage and sewage disposal of the town of Amesbury is still hung up and the pollution of the river continues. Steps should be taken by the Rural District Council for the immediate carrying out of the necessary works.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON.—The Holt scheme, which has been the cause of so much trouble in the past, appears to be as far off a satisfactory solution as ever. The Medical Officer of Health in his annual report suggests that unless a complete scheme for this village is carried out forthwith that the nuisance existing in the village should be dealt with by laying sewers at such a level and gradient as would be eventually adaptable to a general scheme, the parts appearing to require this the most being the ditch at the top of Midlands, and down to the street opposite the "Three Lions," also the Gravel and the Common. The Local Government Board have communicated with the Council objecting to the withdrawal of the scheme for Winsley and Turley, and insisting on the necessity of such a scheme being carried out without delay.

CALNE.—There are no sewage disposal works in the Rural District.

CHIPPENHAM.—The sewage works at Rowden have been working during the year. The effluent has not been at all times quite satisfactory. The works dealing with a small portion of the Box district has been the cause of complaint by persons living in the neighbourhood, and it is probable that the matter will be thrashed out in the law courts.

CRICKLADE.—The sewerage of Wootton Bassett cannot be considered as satisfactory. During an outbreak of Diphtheria I inspected the sewers and found the majority to be in an extremely foul and unsatisfactory condition, and insufficiently and inefficiently flushed. The whole scheme requires the careful attention of an engineer. The sewers appear to have been very badly designed, and decrease in size as they approach the disposal works. This is a matter that should receive the immediate attention of the Council.

DEVIZES.—The Breachfield drainage works have been a source of trouble during the year from their inability to deal with the amount of sewage of a very offensive character delivered at the works. An arrangement has now been made by which the Urban Council would take the whole of the trade refuse leaving the Breachfield works to deal only with the domestic sewage from the houses in the vicinity.

HIGHWORTH.—Some of the drainage at Bishopstone still finds its way into the water courses. The sewage farm at Wroughton still works satisfactorily. At Highworth the sewage is treated at two outfalls by settling tanks and broad irrigation. Twenty-two acres of additional land were acquired in 1893, and since then there have been no complaints of the effluent. At Rodbourne Cheney the outfalls except at Moredon are acute nuisances. Engineers have been instructed to get out a scheme for the disposal of the sewage of this parish. The Stratton St. Margaret sewage scheme has been completed. The total length of sewer laid is 8 miles and 470 yards. The sewage is received into the small settling tanks provided with detritus screens and is then distributed on the bacteria beds, 6 in number, 3 coarse and 3 fine contact beds, composed of coke breeze with a depth of 2ft. of filtering material. With the present flow of sewage it is found necessary to use only 2 sets of beds. The effluent is turned on to land 7 acres in extent, which has been roughly prepared for irrigation, and the final effluent has up to the present been found to satisfy the standard of the Thames Conservancy Inspectors. The depth of the filtering material—only 2 feet—is as much as could be allowed owing to the want of fall from the main outfall sewer.

MALMESBURY.—There are no sewage disposal works in this district.

MARLBOROUGH.—There are no sewage disposal works in this district.

MELKSHAM.—The Council had several conferences with the Melksham Urban Council as to the draining of Shurnhold and part of Melksham Forest into the Urban scheme. When the works are further advanced something definite must be done towards this end. Nothing has been done with regard to the sewerage of the village of Hilperton, where there is urgent necessity for a scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal being carried out. Pressure should be put upon the Rural District Council with this end in view.

MERE.—There are no sewage disposal works in this district.

PEWSEY.—Such drainage as exists in the town of Pewsey is still discharged into the river Avon without treatment. The same obtains at Upavon and Netheravon.

RAMSBURY.—There are no sewage disposal works in this district.

SALISBURY.—There is no system of sewerage in any part of this district. Fisherton Anger Without and Milford Without, which stood so badly in need of such system, have passed into the control of the Salisbury Urban Council, and provision is made in the new sewage scheme for eventually dealing with these parishes, the contract for the scheme having now been let.

TISBURY.—The volume of sewage passing through the filters at Tisbury is gradually increasing, and in the immediate future it will become necessary to improve and enlarge these works in order to prevent the further fouling of the stream into which the effluent passes.

WARMINSTER.—In no part of the district are there any public sewers.

WESTBURY.—The scheme for sewerage and sewage disposal at Road is still in abeyance, satisfactory arrangements not having been made with the adjoining Rural District for a joint scheme.

WILTON.—The sewerage of Bemerton has been completed and the pumping station erected, but the pumping main has not been laid across the valley nor has the disposal area been laid out. If not too late the Council should take into serious consideration the advisability of making an arrangement with the Salisbury Urban Council to treat their sewage instead of pumping it up to the proposed sewage farm. The lift into the Salisbury sewers would be only a few feet, whilst that of the proposed sewage farm is a heavy lift. Unless the farm is properly managed, and so few of these small farms are properly managed, a nuisance and trouble will be created.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

There has been considerable improvement in the house accommodation of the working classes during the past few years, but very much yet remains to be done. In some districts there is a scarcity of good houses, and a general disinclination on the part of landholders to build, and local authorities are unwilling to put in force the powers they possessed under the Housing of the Working Classes Act. Under these conditions it is imperative that Medical Officers of Health and Inspectors of Nuisances shall carry out the obligation of their appointment to carry out a systematic and frequent house to house inspection of their district in order that such houses as already exist may be kept in a proper state of repair and in good sanitary condition. In several districts in the county there is no systematic inspection under section 30 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890. It is the duty of the Medical Officer of Health of a district to represent to his authority any dwelling house that appears to him to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation, &c.

Under section 32 a duty is put on the Local Authority to cause an inspection of their district to be made from time to time to discover houses unfit for habitation and to take proceedings for closure if, on the representation of the Medical Officer of Health, any house appears to them to be in such a state.

During the year 715 houses were built in the County compared with 871 in 1903. In Swindon 325 houses were erected compared with 355 in 1903. In Salisbury 10 houses were built compared with 53 in 1903, Trowbridge 22 compared with 24 in 1903, Chippenham 8 compared with 22 in 1903, Melksham 6 compared with 42 in 1903, Wilton 13 compared with 26 in 1903, and Devizes 6 compared with 26 in 1903. There was an increase in the number of houses built in the Rural Districts.

A number of houses have been repaired and made fit for habitation, and one more house was closed as unfit for occupation, viz. : 29 as against 28 in 1903, of these 5 were in Urban Districts and 24 in Rural Districts.

Four hundred and thirty-one houses were cleansed and limewashed by order of the Sanitary Authorities during the year, of these 212 were in Urban Districts, and 219 in Rural Districts.

Eighty-eight cases of overcrowding were dealt with, 45 in Urban Districts and 43 in the Rural Districts.

Again I have to report that I have record of at least 24 houses having been closed in Rural Districts during the past year as unfit for habitation, and in only three instances was the notice under the Act sent to the County Council. The duty of sending the notice devolves upon the Authority, and not upon the Medical Officer of Health.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There can be no doubt that the Dairies and Cowsheds, &c., Orders, and the Regulations made under those Orders are now more thoroughly observed, but in some districts there is still great laxity. It cannot be expected where the Inspectors of Nuisances are only part time officers that they can devote sufficient time to their duties. In the Rural Districts there are only two Inspectors who devote their whole time to their duties, viz., Highworth and Ramsbury, and only in the Highworth District has there been a proper and systematic inspection of the Cowsheds and Dairies. The Annual Report from this district contains the following on the subject:—

“DAIRY FARMS.”

“Public attention has recently been directed to the dangers to the public health which may arise from impure milk supplies, especially in large towns. One large London Dairy Company which spends annually sums of money running into many thousand pounds, in its attempts to protect its sources of supply from the possibility of infection, has been the subject of an action-at-law in which the Company was mulcted in damages for alleged negligence in selling germ-polluted milk.

It therefore behoves all Sanitary Authorities to adopt and enforce the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders with a view to removing all unsanitary conditions which may exist at farms which are producing milk. In the Highworth Rural Districts these orders have been in force for some years. From the accompanying report dealing with the condition of the dairy farms, it will, I think, be admitted that the Orders are being administered with some degree of efficiency in this district. Under the heading of improvements, it will be seen that work has been done in many instances in order to comply with these Orders in raising the standard of sanitation. Inspections, however, will not entirely remove risk of danger to milk supplies. The intelligent co-operation of the dairy farmer is necessary, and the recent action above referred to has shown that much has yet to be done in safeguarding rural milk supplies, I am not one who will admit that nothing of an intelligent nature is being done in this direction at the present time. I think that the intelligent administration of the Dairy and Cowshed Orders without faddiness and impractical aimings at the impossible, ought to be a reasonable assurance to the public that their interests are safeguarded by the milk producer. I am, however, of opinion that much yet remains to be done in the protection of milk supplies after leaving the hands of the producer. The present method of conveyance of milk by railway companies leaves much to be desired, and the consumer himself needs considerable enlightenment as to the possibility of germ infection which may be existent in his own home.

All sorts of propositions are being propounded with a view to protecting milk supplies at the present time. Some are eminently impracticable and others very injudicious, and it is to be hoped that the calm deliberations of persons who have some practical as well as purely scientific knowledge will be allowed to have weight in all future considerations.”

A conference of the various Rural and Urban Authorities in the county held at the County Offices on 22nd February, 1905, may be productive of some good. The large London Boroughs are collecting a mass of evidence as to the unsatisfactory condition of much of the milk that is now consumed, and sooner or later will put in force the extensive powers which they possess under Private Acts of Parliament for dealing with this subject, when the consequences will be very serious for many farmers.

A Bill which failed to get beyond a second reading in the House of Commons was the **Tuberculosis (Animals) Compensation Bill**. The Bill, which had for its object “to provide for the payment of compensation to the owners of carcasses of animals condemned after slaughter and destroyed by order of a magistrate on account of tuberculosis,” was referred to a Select Committee. The Committee reported the Bill without amendment; but at the same time they made a special report, in which, amongst other things they drew attention (a) to the variety of practices alleged to exist with regard to the amount of tubercular deposit, the existence of which in a carcass is held to justify its total condemnation; and (b) to complaints made by butchers as to the injury caused to them by their prosecution in open Court for having tuberculous meat upon their premises. In view of that report the Local Government Board on 7th September, 1904, addressed an important circular letter to all councils of metropolitan and other boroughs, and of urban and rural districts. It may be useful here to quote the more important parts of that circular:—

“With regard to (a) it appears to the Board to be most desirable that there should be uniformity in the practice of Meat Inspectors in dealing with the carcasses of cattle; and they have already on two occasions, viz., in their circular letters of the 11th March, 1899, and 6th September, 1901, set out, and urged the observance of, the principles laid down by the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis in their report of 1898 with respect to the degree of tubercular disease which should cause a carcass or part thereof to be seized. The Royal Commission stated as follows:—

“We are of opinion that the following principles should be observed in the inspection of tuberculous carcasses of cattle:—

(a) When there is miliary tuberculosis of both lungs,

- (b) When tuberculous lesions are present on the pleura and peritoneum,
- (c) When tuberculous lesions are present in the muscular system, or in the lymphatic glands embedded in or between the muscles,
- (d) When tuberculous lesions exist in any part of an emaciated carcase, the entire carcase and all the organs may be seized.
- (a) When the lesions are confined to the lungs and the thoracic lymphatic glands,
- (b) When the lesions are confined to the liver,
- (c) When the lesions are confined to the pharyngeal lymphatic glands,
- (d) When the lesions are confined to any combination of the foregoing, but are collectively small in extent, the carcase, if otherwise healthy, shall not be condemned, but every part of it containing tuberculous lesions shall be seized.

“The Board are of opinion that, at the present time, measures more stringent than those advocated by the Royal Commission are not called for; but they would impress upon the Council the expediency and desirability of insisting upon those of their officers who are employed as Meat Inspectors acting in strict accordance with the principles thus laid down, if this is not already the case.

“With regard to (b) the Select Committee express their view that, if a butcher who is in possession of tuberculous meat has notified the fact to the proper authority as soon as he could be reasonably expected to be aware of it, the case should not be taken into court.

“The Board understand that in some districts the course recommended by the Committee is followed now, but where this is not so the Board suggest that, having regard to the serious consequences which may result to a butcher from prosecution in open court for being in possession of tuberculous meat, the Council should act upon the view expressed by the Select Committee in cases where such possession is voluntarily and promptly disclosed by the owner.”

SANITARY LEGISLATION IN 1904.

Hopes were raised by the promise in the King's Speech, on the opening of the Session in February, 1904, of the introduction of a Bill for amending the law relating to Public Health, when it was thought that the tangle of Statutes which constitute the Public Health Law would be unravelled and that the law would be brought up-to-date, and consolidated. So much time was consumed in discussing other subjects that none was left for such an important measure. The subject is a very difficult one and whenever it is tackled, Parliament must be prepared to devote much time to its consideration. Of the 36 Public General Acts, only one, strictly speaking, related exclusively to Public Health, viz.:—

Public Health Act.

(4 Edw. 7; chap. 16).

This is an Act, as its title states, “to enable regulations to be made for carrying into effect conventions with respect to the prevention of danger arising to public health from vessels, and the prevention of the conveyance of infection by means of vessels.” The existing law contained ample provision for making regulations for the protection of this country against the introduction of infection from abroad by shipping, and already with that object, the Local Government Board have from time to time made regulations, those at present in force being the Cholera, Plague, and Yellow Fever Regulations of 9th November, 1896. But it was found that the Board had no precise statutory power to make regulations of the same nature for enforcement in the case of vessels leaving this country, and seeing the freedom of this country from the diseases referred to and the high state of efficiency of the sanitary supervision at all our chief ports, foreign countries ran little risk from the absence of definite regulations on the subject. But the Paris International Convention of 1903 assumed that such regulations would be made and enforced, and consequently it became necessary to obtain from Parliament the definite power to make them before the Convention could properly be signed for England.

The Act came into force on its receiving the Royal Assent on 15th August, 1904, and adds one more to the already numerous “Public Health Acts.”

Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act.

(4 Edw. 7; chap. 15).

This Act came into operation on 1st October, 1894, from which date the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, 1894, and Sections 4 (6) and 11 of the Employment of Children Act, 1903, are repealed. It re-enacts, with certain amendments, the Act of 1894, and it may be useful to point out the chief provision in which Boards of Guardians are interested.

Section 1 provides that any person over the age of 16 years having the custody, charge, or care of any child under the age of 16 years who wilfully assaults, ill-treats, neglects, abandons, or exposes the child, or causes or procures the child to be assaulted, ill-treated, neglected, abandoned, or exposed in a manner likely to cause such child unnecessary suffering or injury to its health (including injury to or loss of sight, or hearing, or limb, or organ of the body, and any mental derangement) shall be guilty of a misdemeanour. Such an offence is termed an offence of cruelty, and the Act makes provision as to the penalty that may be inflicted for the offence. In this connection it may be noted that under Section 23 (2) the Act is to apply in the case of a parent who, being without means to maintain a child, fails to provide for its maintenance under the Acts relating to the relief of the poor, in like manner as if the parent had otherwise neglected the child, and by Sub-section (3) of the same section, for the purposes of the Act any person (a) who is the parent of a child, or (b) to whose charge a child is committed by its parent, or (c) any other person having actual possession or control of a child, is to be presumed to have the custody, or charge, or care of the child.

Under Section 5 (1) a constable, or any person authorised by a Justice of the Peace, is empowered to take to a "place of safety," which is defined by Section 29 as including (amongst other places) a Workhouse, any child (1) in respect of whom an offence under Section 2 (a) (which relates to causing, procuring or allowing a boy under the age of 14 years, or a girl under the age of 16 years, to be in any street, premises or place for the purposes of begging, or receiving, or inducing the giving of alms) has been committed, or (2) in respect of whom there has been, or there is reason to believe there has been, committed any of the following offences, viz.: (a) an offence of cruelty within the meaning of the Act as above mentioned; or (b) an offence under Sections 27, 55, or 56 of the Offences Against the Person Act, 1861 (24 and 25 Vict., c. 100); and an offence against a child under the age of 16 years, under Sections 5, 42, 43, 52, or 62 of that Act, or Section 11 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885 (48 and 49 Vict., c. 69); or (c) an offence under the Dangerous Performances Acts, 1879 and 1897 (42 and 43 Vict., c. 34, and 60 and 61 Vict., c. 52; or (d) any other offence involving bodily injury to a child under the age of 16 years.

It is by Section 5 (4) made the duty of Boards of Guardians to provide for the reception of children brought to a workhouse in pursuance of the Act, and where the place of safety, to which a constable or any person authorised by a justice of the peace takes a child is a workhouse, the master of the workhouse is required to receive the child into the workhouse if there is suitable accommodation, and to detain the child there until the case is determined. Any expenses incurred in respect of the child are to be deemed expenses incurred in the relief of the poor.

An important amendment of the existing law is effected by Section 26 of the new Act. By Section 10 of the Poor Law Act, 1879, Boards of Guardians are empowered, with the consent of the Local Government Board, to subscribe towards associations or societies for aiding certain classes of persons. By Section 26 of the Act of 1904 this enactment is amended so as to include in it as one of the associations or societies to which Guardians may, with the Board's consent, subscribe, any association or society for the prevention of cruelty to children.

Shop Hours Act.

(4 Edw. 7; chap. 31).

This Act adds some fresh functions to Local Sanitary Authorities. By Section 1, an Order made by a local authority (that is, in London, outside the city, by a metropolitan borough council, and elsewhere by the council of an urban district, with a population of over 20,000, and any council or other authority having power to appoint Inspectors under the Shop Hours Acts), and confirmed by the central authority (that is, in England by a Secretary of State, in Scotland by the Secretary for Scotland, and in Ireland by the Lord Lieutenant), in manner provided by the Act, may fix the hours on the several days of the week at which, either throughout the area of the local authority or in any specified part thereof, all shops or shops of any specified class are to be closed for serving customers. By Section 2 the hour fixed by such an order shall not be earlier than seven o'clock in the evening on any day of the week, except that on one specified day in the week it may be an hour not earlier than one o'clock in the afternoon.

Other sections of the Act provide for the exception of certain trades or businesses, for the procedure to be followed in the making of the closing orders, for the revocation of orders, for the penalties incurred on contraventions of the provisions of closing orders, for the making of regulations, &c.

Any expenses incurred by a metropolitan borough council under this Act are to be defrayed as part of the expenses of the council, and the expenses of an urban district council are to be defrayed as part of the general expenses incurred in the execution of the Public Health Acts.

Factories and Workshops Acts.

In the majority of the annual reports received there is an indication that some of the duties thrown upon the officers of Urban and Rural District Councils by these Acts are being carried out.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

During the year 502 samples were submitted to the County Analyst by the County Inspectors, of which 47 were adulterated, deficient, or otherwise of such quality or composition as to call for special mention. Prosecutions were instituted in 24 cases.

COUNTY LABORATORY.

The work in the Laboratory increases every year : 362 specimens were bacteriologically examined for Diphtheria, of which 127 gave negative results ; 13 specimens of blood were examined by the "Widal" method for Enteric Fever ; 147 specimens of sputum were examined for Tubercle ; 60 examinations were made for Anthrax ; 71 cases were examined for other Pathogenic Bacteria ; 211 complete analyses of potable and river waters were made : and 63 sewage and sewage effluents were analysed.

The work of The Public Health Department increases steadily from year to year. The correspondence department is very rapidly increasing. I am very pleased to say that the relationship of my office and the Local Medical Officers is still of the most cordial character, and I meet with the cordial co-operation of the Medical Officers and the Medical Practitioners of the County. My advice is more frequently being sought upon local sanitary matters which do not come directly before the notice of the County Council.

I desire to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful appreciation of the continued support and assistance I have received from the Chairman of the Council, and the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary and General Purposes Committee.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN TUBB-THOMAS,

County Medical Officer of Health.

1st July, 1905.

SUMMARY OF

ANNUAL REPORTS.

PART II.

URBAN DISTRICTS.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—W. J. A. ADYE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

Area, 1990 acres.

<i>Population</i>	(Census 1901)	4514	(Census 1891)	4948
<i>Inhabited Houses</i>	„	1119	„	1150
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	„	4.03	„	4.29
<i>Birth-rate</i> ... ..	...	20.29	<i>per 1000 of Population.</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	10.94	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	.45	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	.68	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i> ... ..	...	123.59	„	<i>Births.</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—There is a marked decrease in the number of births, viz., 89 against 121 for 1903. Of the 89 births 38 were males and 51 females. Six of the births were illegitimate.

DEATH-RATE.—The same number of deaths were registered as in 1903, viz. 48. The greatest mortality was in the first and second quarters of the year. Fifteen deaths occurred in persons over 70 years of age, and six were 80 and upwards. There were only 9 deaths between the ages of 15 and 65. There were six inquests held.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There has been a very marked increase, there being 11 deaths under one year as compared with 3 in 1903.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Only four cases were notified, viz., one case of Enteric Fever, imported from outside the area, and three of Erysipelas. The infant class of Trinity Schools was closed for 24 days on account of outbreaks of Mumps and Chicken Pox; 75 per cent of the infants were affected with one or the other disease.

WATER SUPPLY.—Except for two months in the Autumn this was adequate. The Medical Officer of Health suggests that the water should be analysed every quarter. The whole district is supplied with town water with the exception of 31 houses, which are supplied from seven wells. The Frankleigh district is inadequately supplied.

SEWERAGE, SCAVENGING, &c.—The whole of Huntly's Hill has been drained, thus greatly adding to the sanitary condition of the district. The Medical Officer of Health again strongly urges the Council to have the older portion of the drainage overhauled. Owing to the old clay joints having disappeared, he suggests there is a grave risk to the water supply when the mains are empty.

There has been an improvement in the scavenging during the year, the work being now finished by 1 p.m.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—Only one artisan's dwelling was built during the year. There is no overcrowding, and no houses were closed as unfit for occupation.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—All the factories in the town have been visited, and the regulations carried out. At the Rubber Mills fans are kept working where deleterious matter is used. Floors are drained in the water-using department, and the whole place is being fitted with electric light. The Bakehouses and Slaughter Houses are well kept. The three Breweries keep their sanitary arrangements fairly. Very little outwork is done in the area.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.—This has been done in some parts of the area, and great improvement has been effected in the sanitary condition of the cottages. Very few of the water closets in the poorer houses are supplied with flushing apparatus. Slop sinks are an unknown quantity.

CALNE.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—D. CAMPBELL, M.D.

Area, 356 acres.

Population	...	...	(Census 1901)	3457	(Census 1891)	3495
Inhabited Houses	..	...	„	812	„	751
Average number of persons per house			„	4.25	„	4.65
Birth-rate	...	...	...	21.47	per 1000 of Population.	
Crude Death-rate	...	...	...	16.83	„	„
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	.29	„	„
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	...	.29	„	„
Deaths under one year of age	...	...	...	94.59	„	Births.

BIRTH-RATE.—There were 74 births, 31 boys and 43 girls, giving a Birth-rate of 21.47 of the population, being the lowest rate for the past 11 years. Seven of the births were illegitimate.

DEATH-RATE.—The Death-rate is higher than any year for the past five years, chiefly owing to deaths of elderly people, no less than 26 being over 70 years of age. Of these 11 were over 80 years. Ten persons died in the Workhouse; five of these belonged to the Rural District. There was no death from any infectious disease.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There was a decrease, there being only 7 deaths as compared with 10 in 1903.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Only four cases were notified, one Diphtheria, two Erysipelas, one Scarlet Fever. The Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The Scarlet Fever case occurred in the Workhouse. The patient, who had been an inmate of the House for two years, was the subject of Tuberculosis, and on that account had little if any communication with the other inmates. It is a mystery how she contracted the infection.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supply from the Company's mains has been ample, and no complaints were received.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—There has been no extension of the sewers. The working of the sewage farm has been satisfactory.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—Five artisans' houses were built during the year. No overcrowding exists, and no houses were closed as unfit for habitation.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—There are 54 places under observation, including 9 Slaughter Houses, 9 Bakeries, 4 Dairies. All the premises are kept in good order, and employers of labour willingly comply with the requirements of the Act.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.—The greater portion of the district has been inspected, and much useful sanitary work has been done.

CHIPPENHAM.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—W. T. BRISCOE, M.D.

Area, 361 acres.

Population	...	...	(Census 1901)	5074	(Census 1891)	4618
Inhabited houses	...	...	„	1101	„	985
Average number of persons per house			„	4.60	„	4.29
Birth-rate	...	...	...	25.14	per 1000 of Population.	
Crude Death-rate	...	...	...	10.55	„	„
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	.19	„	„
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	...	.57	„	„
Deaths under one year of age	...	...	...	61.06	„	Births.

BIRTH-RATE.—This is a trifle lower than in 1903.

DEATH-RATE.—There is a decrease in the Death-rate, which is below the average for Urban Districts.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The Infantile Mortality rate shows a further decrease.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—46 cases were notified, viz.: 31 Scarlet Fever, of which 16 were treated at the Isolation Hospital; 10 Diphtheria, of which 5 were treated at the Isolation Hospital; and 5 cases of Erysipelas.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—It was not found necessary to close the schools, as infection could not be traced to school influence.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The Medical Officer of Health says “I must repeat the statement I made last year as to the extreme usefulness of the Isolation Hospital, not only for purposes of isolation, but also for the treatment of severe cases.”

DISINFECTION.—Special inspections were made in each case of Infectious Disease, and printed instructions were given how to prevent the spread of such diseases. All the houses were disinfected by the Surveyor after removal to Hospital or recovery of sick persons.

WATER SUPPLY.—There has been an ample and constant supply, and the quality has remained excellent and unchanged. A new high level reservoir at Hardenhuish is being constructed. This will increase the pressure in the higher portions of the town.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—A contract has been entered into for the construction of new sewers and disposal works, and land for the irrigation area has been purchased. The total estimated cost is about £17,000. The work is to be completed by September, 1906.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—There have been 8 new houses erected in the Borough during the year. There is no difficulty in obtaining houses in Chippenham.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—29 under inspection. These have been inspected and found in good order, clean, air space sufficient, and ventilation good. There are no underground bakehouses in the town.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—There are 5 Purveyors of Milk in the town. The Dairies of two are situated without the District. All were found upon inspection to be in good order.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.—The Medical Officer of Health makes no mention of this important subject.

DEVIZES.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—G. S. A. WAYLEN, L.R.C.P.

Area, 906 acres.

<i>Population</i>	...	...	...	(Census 1901)	6532	(Census 1891)	6426
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	...	...	...	„	1431	„	1385
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	...	...	...	„	4.56	„	4.63
<i>Birth-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	24.37	<i>per 1000 of Population.</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	15.69	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	.91	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	1.37	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	...	56.25	„	<i>Births.</i>

BIRTH-RATE —160 births were registered, 74 males and 86 females. Six were illegitimate, 5 of which were born in the Workhouse. The Birth-rate is slightly below the average for the past ten years.

DEATH-RATE.—There is a slight improvement in the Death-rate. 103 deaths occurred at all ages; of these 26 were either in the Workhouse or Hospital, of persons not belonging to the district.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There is a marked decrease in the infantile mortality.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—619 cases of infectious disease were notified. Of these 595 were Measles, occurring chiefly in the months of June, July, and August; 6 Scarlet Fever; 4 Diphtheria; and 4 Erysipelas.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—All the Schools in the town were closed on account of the Measles epidemic.

WATER SUPPLY.—The supply has been constant throughout the year, but the average level of the well at the Waterworks was very low towards the close of the year, and the question of sinking a fresh shaft, and driving a tunnel through into the existing one, has been again under the consideration of the Council.

SEWERAGE.—The alterations in the Sewage Works by the construction of open contact beds has been proceeding during the year. There has been a decided improvement in the condition of the Poulshot stream since the whole of the sewage has been treated at the Works.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—Six new houses have been completed, and although none have been closed as unfit for habitation, an inquiry has been made into the condition of one Court with 11 houses, which are in an extremely dilapidated condition. The lease has been surrendered, and the Medical Officer of Health looks forward to their being pulled down during the coming year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—Twelve Bakehouses and 19 Factories and Workshops are under observation. The two underground Bakehouses have had alterations made in them which render them suitable for use. A Committee of the Council was appointed to consider these alterations, and although in a few particulars they do not meet the requirements drawn up by the Society of Medical Officers of Health, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health there is no danger to health in their being used.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.—The town has been inspected systematically by the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Nuisances.

MALMESBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—CHARLES W. PITT, M.R.C.S.

Area, 178 acres.

<i>Population</i>	...	...	...	(<i>Census 1901</i>)	2854	(<i>Census 1891</i>)	2964
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	...	...	...	„	687	„	695
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	...	...	...	„	4.15	„	4.26
<i>Birth-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	28.71	<i>per 1000 of Population.</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	18.43	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	.70	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	1.06	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	...	135.80	„	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—There is a marked decrease in the Birth-rate.

DEATH-RATE.—There is a slight increase in the Death-rate.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There is a marked increase in the mortality amongst the young children, and the mortality rate of 135.80 per 1,000 Births is very high for a town of the class of Malmesbury.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Only 2 cases of Erysipelas were notified during the year, but there was a considerable incidence of Measles and all the four public elementary schools were closed.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The Medical Officer of Health says: “This hospital is available for any case of emergency for an Infectious Disease, more especially Small Pox, and is situated at Backbridge, Brokenborough.”

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supply is now in the hands of the Corporation. The Medical Officer of Health says in his report that 536 houses are supplied. The water of the two wells in

Burnivale was analysed and found quite unfit for domestic use. The water from Daniel's well was also analysed and found of good quality.

SEWERAGE, ETC.—The Medical Officer of Health in his report, which is for the year 1904, devotes a considerable proportion of the same in discussing the Local Government Inquiry which was held on March 22nd, 1905. He says the matter is still *sub judice*, and immediately proceeds to say it is a question whether it is really required, and that the Urban District Council ought to have time to consider the various schemes formulated for the disposal of sewage and not enter into any plan suddenly. He further says: "Of course that part of the river between the bridge by the railway station and the Abbey Mill requires attention during the drought of summer, and also the Back Brook should be always more or less flushed," thus showing that the river is polluted, and for the protection of the town of Malmesbury itself something requires to be done to arrest the pollution of the stream. A new sewer has been laid in King's Wall, 30 yards long, and a new socket pipe sewer has been laid in Katifer Lane.

SCAVENGING.—This has been satisfactorily performed during the year.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There are four of these which have been inspected and kept fairly clean.

The report is a very short one and several important questions are not dealt with at all. There appears to be no systematic inspection of the town.

MARLBOROUGH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—T. H. HAYDON, M.B., Cantab.

Area, 598 Acres.

Population	...	...	(Census 1901)	3887	(Census 1891)	3012
Inhabited houses	...	...	"	762	"	618
Average number of persons per house	...	...	"	5.10	"	4.87
Birth-rate	...	...	...	15.65	per 1000 of Population	
Crude Death-rate	...	...	...	12.31	"	"
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	1.02	"	"
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	...	.769	"	"
Deaths under one year of age	...	...	...	114.75	"	Births

BIRTH-RATE.—There appears to be a falling off in the Birth-rate, and it is now remarkably low.

DEATH-RATE.—The Death-rate is higher than the average for the past ten years. The Cancer Death-rate of 1.44 per 1,000 of the population is again high. The Zymotic Death-rate and the Phthisis Death-rate were low.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The rate is practically the same as that for last year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—There were fewer cases of Infectious Diseases than in any year for the past 12 years. One case of Scarlet Fever was removed to the Isolation Hospital.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—The hospital was in use for cases from the Rural District when a case of Scarlet Fever from the borough occurred. All the arrangements for the management of the patients were excellent. The hospital is in excellent order both as to wards, disinfecting apparatus, and out-houses. The Medical Officer of Health says:—"As I have before pointed out the disinfector is not suitably constructed for an Infectious Diseases Hospital, as the infected articles have to go in at the same door as that through which the articles when disinfected come out. Some better means of obtaining hot water is badly needed."

WATER SUPPLY.—This continues satisfactory as to quantity and quality.

SEWERAGE.—During the year the outfall works have been completed, and are now working on that portion of the sewage which comes from the districts which have been connected. Great care is being

exercised in making house connections, the house drains all being well disconnected from the sewers and properly ventilated. The complicated arrangements of the houses in an old town like Marlborough makes the work very difficult. At the same time it is giving opportunities for dealing with many of the sanitary conditions about which I have been complaining for many years, such as the following:—The cesspit privy in connection with a bakehouse premises, and a sanitary w.c. substituted. Another case of a w.c. in Kingsbury Street, built right into the living room. New sewers have been provided for the greater portion of the borough with the exception where old sewers have been picked up, and where no sewers have been provided at all. No sewers have been provided for Cardigan Road and the Union Workhouse and Hospital. In a special report for 1903 the Medical Officer of Health drew attention to the very insanitary condition of the Workhouse sewage disposal, and the necessity of providing a new sewer for this district.

SCAVENGING.—The house refuse is removed once a week, and the refuse is deposited in all sorts of uncovered receptacles by the side of the street pavement, and year by year the Medical Officer of Health has suggested that the refuse should only be put into proper covered dust-bins before being carried into the streets, and is still of opinion that the present method constitutes a danger to the public health. He further says the refuse ought to be collected more frequently in the summer time, and the collection ought to be effected at an earlier hour in the morning.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—This still leaves much to be desired. No more cottage accommodation has been provided. Four cases of overcrowding have had to be abated.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—The number inspected is the same, viz., 47. In one steam power is discontinued. In all the air space is sufficient for the numbers employed and no serious sanitary defects have been found.

MELKSHAM.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—W. INGRAM KEIR, F.R.C.S., Edin.

Area, 476 acres.

<i>Population</i>	...	...	(Census 1901)	2450	(Census 1891)	2078
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	...	...	„	579	„	492
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	...	...	„	4.23	„	4.22
<i>Birth-rate</i>	...	...	...	23.03	<i>per 1000 of Population</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	12.88	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	.00	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	1.95	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	101.69	„	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—The Medical Officer of Health says the Birth-rate is very low, but it is higher than most of the small towns of Wiltshire.

DEATH-RATE.—This is higher than last year, but still much below the average for England and Wales. Of the 33 Deaths 13 were of persons above 70, while 2 reached the patriarchal ages of 95 and 99. There were no deaths from Zymotic Disease. Consumption claimed 5 victims, but of this number 3 came into the town in an advanced stage of the disease.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There is a satisfactory reduction on the rate for past years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Only 7 cases were notified during the year, 5 of Scarlet Fever, 1 Diphtheria, and 1 of Erysipelas. In addition a mild form of Whooping Cough was prevalent throughout the year, and in November and December there was an epidemic of German Measles.

WATER SUPPLY.—This has been satisfactory both as regards quality and pressure. The only serious stoppage was caused by the Council's drainage operations, resulting in the main being broken.

SEWERAGE.—The new sewage works were commenced in March, and the greater part of the main sewers have been laid.

SCAVENGING.—The town scavenging was greatly hampered by drainage operations, and much inconvenience and annoyance were caused by the footways being strewn with clay saturated with foul sewage or coal gas. The present system of refuse removal by the Council's men now appears to work satisfactorily.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—There was no great increase in the number of houses built, although the demand continues, the tendency being to build outside the Urban boundary and thus escape the heavy rates. Two cases of overcrowding were reported to the Urban Council and subsequently abated. The great demand for labour and the scarcity of houses encourages this nuisance.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—The Medical Officer of Health inspected all the factories and workshops, and kept the registers required by the Act. There appears to be no difficulty with employers of labour in getting this Act carried out in Melksham.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—These undesirable places were inspected quarterly, and found to be kept in accordance with the Bye-laws.

INSPECTIONS.—The systematic inspections enjoined by Section 92 of the Public Health Act were carried out quarterly by the Medical Officer of Health in conjunction with the Inspector of Nuisances. A good deal of useful sanitary work was carried out. In addition to these inspections he investigated every case of Infectious Disease, and made upwards of 50 inspections. A growing nuisance in the town is the practice of keeping fowls in confined areas close to dwellinghouses and not always in a most cleanly condition.

SALISBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—HARCOURT COATES, L.R.C.P.

Area, 600 acres.

<i>Population</i>	...	...	...	(<i>Census 1901</i>)	17117	(<i>Census 1891</i>)	15533
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	...	...	...	„	3652	„	3222
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	...	...	...	„	4.68	„	4.82
<i>Birth-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	25.01	<i>per 1000 of Population.</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	13.52	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	.56	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	1.30	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	...	111.36	„	<i>Births.</i>

The statistics for this and the Salisbury Rural District are complicated by the fact that the areas were disturbed on November 9th, 1904, in consequence of the extension of the Borough.

BIRTH-RATE.—There is a marked increase in the Birth-rate; it is higher than any rate since 1895.

Two large institutions, viz., Fisherton Asylum and the Salisbury Workhouse, refuges often for extremely old and diseased person, are now included in the City boundaries. But it should be noted that in conjunction with the Birth-rate it is impossible to arrive at an accurate rate until a new census has been taken, in consequence of the increased area of the Borough owing to the Borough extension.

DEATH-RATE.—The Death-rate shows a slight increase.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The Medical Officer of Health does not mention this important subject in his report. The rate is nearly double that which obtained in 1903.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—67 cases were notified during the year. Of these 37 were Diphtheria, 14 Scarlet Fever, 14 Erysipelas, and 2 Puerperal Fever.

WATER SUPPLY.—Nothing is said upon this important subject.

SEWERAGE.—The scheme for the new disposal works has been adopted and the sanction of the Local Government Board obtained for a loan.

SCAVENGING.—This is done by public scavengers twice a week and taken to the Horsefall refuse destructor at the Sewage Works. The Medical Officer of Health says:—"The scavenging is somewhat of a nuisance in consequence of all kinds of wooden receptacles, boxes, tubs, etc., being placed in the streets, and often emitting most foul odours. I beg to suggest, as I have already done twice before, that iron sanitary dust bins with lids should at once be made compulsory, and a penalty attached to anyone using the offensive articles above described. The fact of pieces of flesh being pulled out of such tubs by dogs and left festering in the streets, which occurs very frequently, must point out to authority the real danger of such method."

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—There appears to be a large increase in building.

The common lodging houses, two in number, have been regularly visited, and in one case the lime washing was not properly carried out. Proceedings against the manager were taken, and a conviction obtained.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—226 places are registered, representing 35 different trades, and 246 workshops or workrooms. 283 inspections were made by the Inspector of Nuisances during the year, and 45 notices for abatement of nuisances were served.

Dairies and Workshops were visited at frequent intervals, their cleanliness ensured, and many defects were remedied.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.—This has been carried out in a most careful way by the Sanitary Inspector.

NOTE.—There is no mention of house to house inspection by the Medical Officer of Health.

SWINDON.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—F. E. STREETEN, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Area, 4265 acres.

Population	...	...	(Census 1901)	45006	(Census 1891)	33001
Inhabited houses	...	...	"	9240	"	5852
Average number of persons per house	...	...	"	4.87	"	5.63
Birth-rate	...	...	...	29.76	per 1000 of population.	
Crude Death-rate	...	...	...	12.38	"	"
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	1.52	"	"
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	...	.92	"	"
Deaths under one year of age	...	...	...	111.26	"	Births.

BIRTH-RATE.—During the year 1,447 Births (707 male and 740 female) were registered. This is a substantial increase over the births registered in 1903, and is the highest recorded in the last decade.

DEATH-RATE.—The number of Deaths registered was 602. The Death-rate is the highest in the last decade, and is due to increased fatality under the following diseases: Measles, Diphtheria, Diarrhoea, Cancer, Bronchitis, and Pneumonia. The increase of deaths among children under 5 years of age is 24, or over one-third of the total year's increased fatality as compared with 1903. No less than 25 deaths from Measles occurred in children under five years. Measles was conspicuous by its absence from the death-roll of 1903. Though the Death-rate is higher than the town's average, it cannot but be considered a very low one compared with the average of other towns and the whole country.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There was an increase of mortality of children under one year of age as compared with the previous year. 161 deaths were registered, as compared with 149 in 1903. The infant death-rate, although higher than usual, is still well under the average for the past ten years. The Medical Officer of Health draws attention to the large number (13) of deaths from premature birth. It would be interesting if further statistics as to the exact number of stillborn births could be obtained.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—385 cases were notified, viz., Scarlet Fever 209, Diphtheria 150, Enteric Fever 3, Erysipelas 23. Though considerably less than in 1903, infectious disease was prevalent with varying intensity throughout the year. The incidence of Scarlet Fever has markedly diminished, but Diphtheria shows a very considerably increased incidence. During a part of the year Diphtheria was very prevalent in the West Ward, and there were several fatalities from this disease. No Ward of the Borough was free from cases of the disease, but the maximum of intensity has been in the West Ward, where 59 of the 150 cases notified occurred. There are certain conditions favourable to the incidence of Diphtheria which are to be found in the Ward in question. In the first place a good deal of old and insanitary property is located here, and a large percentage of the cases occurred in it. Again, the influence of school infection was intensified by the overcrowding of the one school in the district where the disease was endemic. I believe that this overcrowding was of a temporary nature, and was due to the non-completion of the new school destined to relieve it, but it was unfortunate that it should so have happened. And lastly the condition of the Rodbourne Sewage Farm, which is located on the borders of the West Ward, was in by no means a satisfactory state. Numerous complaints were received by me as to the offensive condition of the atmosphere at the northern extremity of the Ward, when the wind was blowing from the direction of the farm. Rightly or wrongly, the increased incidence of Diphtheria in this locality was by the lay public attributed to the condition of the Sewage Farm, and I see no reason why either directly or indirectly it may not have contributed its quota in the causation of disease in the Ward. Efforts are being made to improve the condition of some of the older properties in the West Ward, but it is difficult to accomplish. Of the 150 cases of Diphtheria notified 20 proved fatal. Of the 209 cases of Scarlet Fever, 6 proved fatal. Out of the 209 infections 178 were among children attending the Elementary Schools in the town. A table is given showing the incidence of this disease and also of Diphtheria, at each school in the town. No one school in the town had a perfect immunity from Scarlet Fever excepting the Roman Catholic Elementary School, and only one case of Diphtheria occurred amongst the pupils of this school. Spot maps are included in the report showing the distribution of the various forms of infectious disease in the different wards. Measles was prevalent during the year, and there were 30 deaths from this cause.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Out of 363 cases of infectious disease notified no less than 335 were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

WATER SUPPLY.—This is dealt with in the first part of this report.

SEWERAGE.—The Broome Sewage Farm, which treats the sewage from Old Swindon, including the effluent from two Breweries, has been so far satisfactory as to receive no complaints from the Thames Conservancy.

The Rodbourne Sewage Farm, as evidenced by the remarks under Infectious Disease, has not been satisfactory. During the year it was very evident that the farm was becoming sewage sick, and complaints were received as to the quality of the effluent discharged into the Ray, and the emanations from the farm generally were a source of complaint in the West Ward. A scheme has been prepared which will be the subject of a Local Government Board Inquiry.

SCAVENGING.—Wherever it is practicable collection of house refuse is made in back ways, but where this is not possible hours are fixed for receptacles to be placed in the streets at the proper hours for collection. The plan has worked well, and has in a great measure abated the nuisance which previously existed. The collections are made bi-weekly, and the refuse is carted to the Rodbourne Sewage Farm and Tismead's Ditch. Some 10,000 loads of refuse are scavenged during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—There are 271 factories and workshops on the register. 110 inspections were made during the year by the Medical Officer of Health and 963 by the Sanitary Inspectors. 27 notices to cleanse were served, 7 to abate overcrowding, 4 closets insufficient or unsuitable, and 1 closet not separate for sexes.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—There are 15 dairy farms, of which 11 distribute their milk in Swindon and 4 send it to London. There are also in the town 54 dairies and milkshops which retail milk. They are all under inspection. The Medical Officer of Health regards the combination of milk selling with

that of a more or less general store, where groceries, provisions, and sundries of all kinds are sold, as undesirable, as it does not permit of the scrupulous cleanliness desirable in dealing with milk.

INSPECTIONS.—The district is thoroughly inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Inspector, and 3 Assistant Inspectors, and an enormous number of inspections made and much good work done and great sanitary improvements effected with a remarkable freedom from litigation, only one case having been before the magistrates during the year, which resulted in a judgment in favour of the Corporation.

TROWBRIDGE.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—JAMES PEARSE, M.D.

Area, 2126 acres.

<i>Population</i>	(Census 1901)	11526	(Census 1891)	12046
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	„	2817	„	2722
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	„	4.09	„	4.42
<i>Birth-rate</i> ... ..	...	22.33	<i>per 1000 of Population</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	12.57	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	1.14	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	1.319	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i> ... ..	...	74.80	„	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—254 Births were registered. The rate is an improvement upon the average for the previous 10 years. 13 illegitimate births were registered.

DEATH-RATE.—143 deaths were registered. The Death-rate is below the average for the previous 10 years. Consumption and Tubercular diseases contribute the unsatisfactory total of 24 deaths, as against 11 in 1903. The deaths from Consumption alone numbered 15, as against an average for the previous 10 years of 8.2. Of these deaths 8 occurred in females, and 7 in males. These figures occasion much regret which is emphasised by the fact that a majority of deaths occurred between the ages of 20 and 40. The deaths from Cancer and Malignant Disease numbered 9, 8 of which occurred in individuals over 65 years of age. 55 of the total deaths were of persons aged 65 and upwards. The number of inquests held during the year was 10.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There is a decrease in the Infantile Mortality, and the rate is below the average for the past 10 years. The Medical Officer of Health says: “I would not have been surprised at a higher figure in your district owing to the large employment of female labour. Five of the 19 deaths may be considered non-preventible, being classified as premature birth and heart disease, so that the low infantile mortality is a matter of congratulation.”

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—62 cases of Infectious Disease were notified, viz., Diphtheria 12, Erysipelas 5, Scarlet Fever 40, Enteric Fever 5. There has been a slight increase of Diphtheria over last year, but nothing in the nature of a serious epidemic. The cases occurred mainly in the latter part of the year, but were not confined to any one part of the town. Scarlet Fever showed a marked recrudescence during the year, mainly during the spring and autumn. Fortunately the epidemic was a mild one, but 2 cases from one household proved fatal. This family lived in a very dirty house which has since been thoroughly cleansed. On two occasions on visiting the schools in the endeavour to trace the origin of cases the Medical Officer of Health found a child in the disquimating stage. Of the 5 enteric cases 2 occurred in one family; two others were associated. In no instance was the origin of the disease definitely traced; in one case the sanitary surroundings were very unsatisfactory, and have since been remedied. It is a matter for congratulation that though 3 cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 of Enteric Fever occurred on premises connected with the milk supply, there has been no spread caused by this means.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—23 cases were removed to the hospital in the course of the year. Of these, one patient died. As the incidence of Scarlet Fever was intermittent the Hospital was at times closed.

WATER SUPPLY.—The public water supply has been well maintained throughout the year. 2 wells situated in Gloucester Road have been closed. There appears to be a number of wells throughout the district, the use of which should be discouraged, as they are seldom constructed with sufficient protection against contamination.

SEWERAGE.—The main intercepting sewer was completed, and a number of other sewers were completed during the year. The Disposal Works are in an advanced stage of construction.

REFUSE.—Complaints having been made with regard to the tipping of refuse at Upper Studley, the Medical Officer of Health was instructed by the Local Government Board to prepare a report on the use of this site. He made certain recommendations in order to obviate any nuisance, but the use of the site was discontinued during the year, and throughout the year most of the refuse was disposed of elsewhere.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—Considerable more attention has been given to this Act during the past year than previously, in more exact keeping of the Register and in regular inspection. 115 workshops are on the register, viz., bakehouses 19, dressmaking and millinery 32, tailoring 12, boot and shoemaking 12, various 40. The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Strickland, was appointed in June, and to the end of the year had made 164 visits of inspection of these premises, and the following nuisances were dealt with: Want of cleanliness 6, want of ventilation 4, over-crowding 3, fault of sanitary accommodation 12, other nuisances 8. 10 instances of young persons employed in workshops without the necessary abstract of the Act being fixed were reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.—The Medical Officer of Health hopes during the ensuing year to see that a more regular inspection of dairy premises is carried out, though these are so scattered that their supervision will entail a considerable amount of time. In the present condition of the register this is impossible, for it appears possible for any person who feels inclined to do so, to start a milk business on any premises. He draws attention to the provisions of the Dairies and Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1895. "It shall not be lawful for any person to carry on in the District of any local authority the trade of cow-keeper, dairyman, or purveyor of milk, unless he is registered as such therein in accordance with this article." "The Local Authority shall from time to time give public notice by advertisement in a newspaper circulating in their district, and if they think fit by placard, handbills, or otherwise, of registration being required and of the mode of registration."

There are 12 slaughterhouses on the register, which were inspected by the Medical Officer of Health once a quarter, and by the Inspector more frequently. On the whole they are well kept. 2 premises, used as slaughterhouses without registration have come under observation. One has been closed, and the occupier of the second has applied for registration.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.—A commencement has been made with this work, 171 inspections having been made between June 24 and December 31.

SANITARY INSPECTION.—A very considerable amount of excellent sanitary work has been carried out during the year, and the representation of the Local Government Board to the effect that it was desirable that an official should be appointed who should devote his whole time to sanitary duties has been more than justified.

WARMINSTER.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—F. I. FLOWER, M.R.C.S.

Area, 6564 Acres.

<i>Population</i>	...	...	(Census 1901)	5547	(Census 1891)	5563
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	...	...	"	1264	"	1253
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>			"	4.38	"	4.43
<i>Birth-rate</i>	...	...	...	22.00	<i>per 1000 of Population</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	14.61	"	"
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	.72	"	,
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	.72	"	,
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	65.57	"	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—This was below the average.

DEATH-RATE.—The deaths of 81 persons were registered. The ages of death ranged from 5 days to 91 years, and the deaths of persons over 80 years of age numbered 12. One death occurred from Scarlet Fever, 1 from Erysipelas, 4 from Phthisis, and 6 from Cancer.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There is a marked increase from that of 1903, but the rate is still much below the average of the county.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—12 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported, 10 of which occurred during the months of January and February, 6 of these were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. One mild case of Diphtheria, and 3 cases of Erysipelas, one of which proved fatal, were also notified.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—The means of providing a Small-pox Hospital for the combined Rural and Urban Districts, has not yet been settled. The Medical Officer of Health says:—"I cannot help thinking that the buildings on the Sutton and Crockerton Road, which are most suitable for the purpose, could be obtained if the case were explained to Lord Bath. There is no spot more suitable and convenient to both districts, than the locality I have mentioned."

WATER SUPPLY.—The supply and purity of the town water has been most satisfactory. On two occasions an analysis was obtained and in both instances the report was most satisfactory.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—The workshops of the town numbering 22, and employing about 100 hands have been visited, and the necessary inquiries made as to cubic space, the number of workers, and lavatory accommodation. The Medical Officer of Health says he is not supplied with a list of the out-workers in the glove trade. The bakehouses, which under the new regulations, are under the Factories and Workshops Act have been regularly inspected.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—The dairies and cowsheds were carefully inspected and found to be satisfactory, and with few exceptions the structural condition of the cowsheds was good, but there is a want of cleanliness in the roofs and floors of some of them, and occasionally it was found that the sheds were not confined to the use of cows only, but horses, and in a few instances pigs and poultry find accommodation. Inquiries were made as to the cleanliness of persons employed in dairy work, and the necessity was impressed upon them of the hands of the milkers and the teats of the cows being properly cleansed before milking.

INSPECTION.—Regular inspections in company with the Sanitary Officer were made, and the results of these inspections were monthly reported to the Council. Some cottages in Carson's Yard and one cottage in Brook Gardens were reported as being out of repair, and the necessary repairs were done.

WESTBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—WALTER H. REED, M.R.C.S.

Area 3,599 acres.

<i>Population</i>	...	...	...	(Census 1901)	3305	(Census 1891)	3341
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	...	...	...	"	802	"	1072
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	...	...	...	"	4.12	"	3.11
<i>Birth-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	24.88	<i>per 1000 of Population</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	16.69	"	"
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	.30	"	"
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	1.21	"	"
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	...	97.56	"	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—There was a slight improvement in the Birth-rate.

DEATH-RATE.—The Death-rate is practically the same as that for 1903. There were 5 deaths from Cancer, 5 from Heart Disease, 4 from Consumption, 5 from Bronchitis, and 3 from accidents.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There is a slight increase in the Infantile Mortality rate.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Twenty-four cases of Infectious Disease were notified, viz.: 19 of Scarlet Fever, and 5 of Erysipelas. The cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in 17 houses, all of which were disinfected, together with clothing. They were one and all of an exceedingly mild type, and with two exceptions did not spread to the other inmates of the same household. Every precaution was taken to prevent the spread of the disease, and in every case successfully.

WATER SUPPLY.—Samples of water from the various wells in Westbury and Westbury Leigh were analysed, and in those cases where the water was found unfit for domestic use, notices were served, resulting in a supply being laid on from the waterworks mains in each case.

SEWERAGE.—An improvement has been made to the Church Street sewer, but it would be advisable if this improvement was extended to the Baths. “A considerable portion of this length consists of an open drain which carries all kinds of garbage and kitchen refuse from the adjoining properties, and which when the slop water regularly discharged from the Angel Factory is most objectionable and insanitary.” “The public sewers generally are being improved, but in cases where new construction has not been carried out the sewers have been rendered efficient by flushing with hose attached to the water main.” A sewer at Edenvale has been diverted from the workhouse garden to the highway where a manhole and inspection chamber have been built at the point of the junction with the drainage of the Union Workhouse.

SCAVENGING.—The Westbury Urban Council have not up to the present considered it necessary to carry out the removal of refuse of scavenging.

HOUSING.—Six new houses have been erected and one made fit for habitation. Two cases of overcrowding were abated.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—Twenty-six premises are under inspection. Seven slaughterhouses are registered or licensed and are regularly inspected. The duties under the Factories Act revealed a fairly satisfactory condition according to the requirements. The chief cause for consideration is the temporary convenience for both sexes at the indigo glove factory. These are not sanitary, and upon pointing this out the proprietor stated they would consider the provision of more suitable and improved sanitary appliances.

WILTON.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—CHARLES R. STRATON, L.R.C.P., L.S.Sc., Durham.

Area 1,915 acres.

<i>Population</i>	...	...	(Census 1901)	2203	(Census 1891)	2120
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	...	...	„	518	„	480
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	...	...	„	4.25	„	4.41
<i>Birth-rate</i>	...	...	...	22.45	<i>per 1000 of Population</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	12.57	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	1.34	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	1.34	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	40.00	„	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—There is a slight improvement in the Birth-rate, which has risen from 17 to 22.45.

DEATH-RATE.—The Death-rate is slightly above the average for the past 10 years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—This is much below the average.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—During the year 29 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified. Of these 19 were cases of Diphtheria, 7 of Scarlet Fever, and 3 of Erysipelas. In all cases of sore throat of a doubtful character, the diagnosis was confirmed by bacteriological examination at the County Laboratory.

In each case where necessary, printed directions were given and disinfectants supplied. Subsequent disinfection was carried out in 15 houses by the Sanitary Inspector. Three deaths were caused by Diphtheria.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.—The arrangements for a combined Infectious Diseases Hospital have not yet been completed, but are progressing slowly. Meanwhile the Medical Officer of Health says:—"I would remind this Authority that it is desirable to come to a provisional understanding with the adjoining Authorities so as to secure permission to use their temporary Small-pox huts in the event of any cases occurring before a conjoint hospital is built or provided."

WATER SUPPLY.—The water has been examined on 4 occasions, and the results of such examinations have proved it to be of excellent quality on each occasion, whilst the supply has always been abundant. 530 houses are supplied from the town mains, and the few remaining houses are supplied from well and rain-water tanks.

SEWERAGE.—"During the year the Sewers have been blocked on several occasions. There can be little doubt that the present system of flushing is ineffectual, and the necessity of improving it is emphasised by the significant fact that cases of Diphtheria followed these blocks in the drainage in North Street, Crow Lane, and Ditchampton." The streams and watercourses are in order, and where necessary they have been recently cleansed by the Authority. The Council has applied to the Local Government Board to sanction a loan for carrying out a scheme of improved sewerage and sewage disposal. The scavenging has been efficiently carried out. 441 loads of refuse have been removed from 545 houses and deposited in a suitable pit at Ugford.

HOUSING.—Thirteen new houses have been erected and 4 have been closed as unfit for human habitation. 3 houses have been restored and made fit for use as dwellings. 26 houses have been cleansed and whitewashed. 1 case of overcrowding has been abated.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—Fifteen Factories, Workshops, and Bakehouses have been under inspection. 3 were certified for lime-washing, and in 3 insanitary conditions were dealt with. The bake-houses and slaughterhouses are in good order, and the bye-laws relating to them are observed.

INSPECTION.—A systematic inspection of the District is annually carried out.

PART III.

RURAL DISTRICTS.

AMESBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—CHARLES EDDOWES, M.R.C.S.

Area, 63453 acres.

<i>Population</i>	(Census 1901)	8268	(Census 1891)	6878
<i>Inhabited Houses</i>	„	1668	„	1566
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	„	4.95	„	4.39
<i>Birth-rate</i> ... ..	...	27.05	<i>per 1000 of Population.</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	12.32	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	.11	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	.69	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i> .. ..	...	51.06	„	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—This shows a marked increase.

DEATH-RATE.—The Death-rate very closely approaches the figure for 1903. Twelve deaths occurred in the Military Hospital stationed in the District. Of the 107 deaths registered 15 were over 60 and under 70, 22 over 70 and under 80, 13 over 80 and upwards, three being over 90. There were six deaths from Phthisis, 15 from Heart Disease, and 14 from Cancer, which gives a rate of 1.6 per 1000. It is much to be regretted that this disease is increasing in the district.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 12 deaths of infants under one year of age.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Twenty-four cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year; 16 from the Amesbury District, five from the Orcheston District, and three from the Winterbourne District. There were 17 cases of Scarlet Fever, all of a mild type, and the necessary precautions being taken the disease did not spread. Four cases of Enteric Fever occurred at Bulford Military Camp, also one at Porton, brought from the Camp. Measles was prevalent in the parish of Durrington towards the end of the year, when it was necessary to close the National School. One Death occurred from Scarlet Fever in a patient sent from the Salisbury Infirmary to the Salisbury Temporary Isolation Hospital at Winterbourne Earls.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supply of the District is very good and plentiful. Twenty samples of water from various wells were analysed, and with two exceptions were found fit for domestic use. The Medical Officer of Health gave instructions to the people using the defective wells to boil the water for drinking purposes until the wells could be deepened and cleansed. The streams and water courses are all well cleaned and cared for.

SEWERAGE.—The Medical Officer of Health says:—“I must once more draw attention to the drainage of Amesbury, as I understand nothing has yet been done towards improving it.”

HOUSING.—Forty houses have been built during the year, principally in the parishes of Durrington, Bulford, Porton, and Amesbury, all with up-to-date requirements, with the exception of the drainage, which in some of the houses is not all that could be desired, but which the Medical Officer of Health hopes the builders, who are aware of the fact, will do their best to improve. Thirty-five houses were cleansed and limewashed, and eight made fit for habitation. Eight cases of overcrowding occurred and were abated.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—There are 32 Dairies and Cowsheds on the register, which have been inspected. In some cases cautions were given, but no case of contravention of the bye-laws occurred, nor has there been any instance of the sale of infected milk.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—W. J. A. ADYE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

Area, 16698 acres.

<i>Population</i>	...	...	...	(Census 1901)	5071	(Census 1891)	5408
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	...	...	...	„	1134	„	1153
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	...	...	...	„	4.47	„	4.69
<i>Birth-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	24.14	<i>per 1000 of Population.</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	15.49	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	2.01	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	1.20	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	...	75.00	„	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—There was a slight increase, 120 Births against 114 for last year. The sexes were evenly divided. There were 4 illegitimate births all females.

DEATH-RATE.—There is a marked increase in the Death-rate, it being 4.2 above the average for the past 10 years. 35 of the deaths were in persons over 65 years of age. There were 10 deaths from Cancer, more than any year of which the Medical Officer of Health has the figures. There were 6 deaths from Phthisis all between the ages of 25 and 65.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 9 deaths in children under the age of one year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—20 cases were notified, viz., Scarlet Fever 3 cases, all occurring at Winsley; Diphtheria 9 cases, 7 of these occurring in Holt. The patient recovering from Enteric Fever was brought into Wingfield, and though removed as soon as discovered, caused 3 cases, one ending fatally. There were 5 cases of Erysipelas.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—In June, the Congregational, and in July the Church Schools at Holt were closed for a period of 21 days from Whooping-Cough, and in December the Elementary School at Wingfield for a like period on account of Measles.

WATER SUPPLY.—A scarcity of water, not only for drinking, but for any purpose at all, has been felt very greatly at Westwood, Monkton Farleigh, and Wraxall during the year. At Westwood a scheme is under consideration, by which the village will be supplied by the Bath High Level Co., and the Medical Officer of Health suggests (1) that the Parish Council of Wingfield also get their supply from the same source; and (2) that a cistern large enough to supply Westwood, or in the case of Wingfield joining, to supply both villages, for at least 4 days; the reason being that a leakage may, and has occurred at Wingfield, to the main supply pipe and then if there was a four day supply to fall back upon, there would not be any risk of shortage, such as has happened there. The Medical Officer of Health further suggests that steps be taken to obtain the consent of Sir C. Hobhouse, Bart., to obtain a supply for Monkton Farleigh, from a well at Park Wood. Something of the same kind might be of use at Wraxall. He further regrets that the suggestions he made for the regulation of the water supply at Turley, and at the same time for keeping it pure, were not accepted by the Parish Council.

SEWERAGE.—A slight improvement has taken place by the substitution of buckets for the old cess-pits. In certain districts and where new cottages have been put up, buckets are the rule. The Medical Officer of Health points out the danger in dealing with the contents of the buckets where the gardens are too small to allow of the proper burial of the matter, and where they are near a source of water supply. He recommends a proper system of scavenging and removal of this refuse. The Medical Officer of Health says: “With regard to Holt would it not be wise to pipe drain the worst parts of the village till a suitable scheme be adopted, the pipes to be of the same size, level and gradient as recommended in plans we have before us, and which, in the event of the whole drainage being carried out, would work into the whole scheme, in other words, drain the worst parts at once, allowing the effluent to flow in the same route as at present. The routes appearing to me to require this the most are the ditch at the top of Midlands and down to the street opposite the Three Lions, also the Gravel and the Common, the pipe from the latter could be made to join the angle where the one from the top of Midlands joins the one past the Three Lions.” By these means the worst smells in the village would be abated.

HOUSING.—14 cottages were built during the year, and two cases of overcrowding of persons in houses were dealt with.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—During the year the Medical Officer of Health has visited 26 farms and reported 9 to the Council. He examined 58 sheds, and of these 34 were paved and 28 drained, while 17 were whitewashed. This number of whitewashed sheds is very small, and more attention should be paid to it, both for the sake of the milk and for the health of the cows. Whitewashing should be carried out regularly at least twice a year, not only the walls of the sheds, but the posts, roofs, and mangers. The floors should be of some impermeable material, properly guttered and roughened.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—37 are under inspection, viz., 7 factories, 12 workshops, and 18 home-workers' premises. The sanitary arrangements of the factories are fair, and some small defects pointed out to the owners were ordered to be rectified at once.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF DISTRICT AND SUGGESTIONS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.—(1) Holt and Winsley drainage ought to be put in hand at once; (2) Limpley Stoke would be much improved if a good scheme of drainage could be carried out; (3) water supply is urgently needed in Westwood, Wingfield, and Wraxall; and a better one in Monkton Farleigh.

CALNE.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—D. CAMPBELL, M.D.

Area 28968 Acres.

<i>Population</i>	...	...	...	(Census 1901)	4614	(Census 1891)	5014
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	...	...	...	„	1128	„	1184
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	...	...	...	„	4.09	„	4.23
<i>Birth-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	19.58	<i>per 1000 of Population</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	11.57	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	1.11	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	.66	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	...	68.18	„	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—There is a falling-off in the Birth-rate. There were 88 Births, 49 boys and 39 girls, the lowest number for 11 years. There were eight illegitimate births.

DEATH-RATE.—This is the lowest since 1900. Of the 52 deaths seven were over 70 years of age, and 10 were over 80. There were three deaths from Phthisis, three from Cancer, 14 from Heart Disease, two from Whooping Cough, and one from Measles.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—There were 12 cases notified, viz.: Three Diphtheria, 3 Erysipelas, 6 Scarlet Fever. The three cases of Diphtheria were taken into the hospital; two Scarlet Fever cases were removed to the hospital, and the others treated at home. As a means of preventing disease the hospital has been of great service. Each case admitted made a good recovery.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supply of the district is satisfactory. There was a scarcity at Tytherton caused by a structural defect, but that has been remedied.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—The Medical Officer of Health inspected the bakehouses in the District, and all are kept clean and in a satisfactory condition. There is no factory in his District.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—There are 98 persons, five less than last year, engaged in the milk trade on the register, whose premises are under supervision. There has been no contravention of the Acts, Orders, or Byelaws, and no infected milk has been supplied or reported.

INSPECTION.—The whole District has been inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, who found very little to complain of, except with regard to the sanitary arrangement of some cottages at Stockley, which will shortly be remedied.

CHIPPENHAM.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—W. T. BRISCOE, M.D.

Area, 58606 acres.

<i>Population</i>	(<i>Census</i> 1901)	17885	(<i>Census</i> 1891)	17050
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	„	3996	„	3738
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	„	4.47	„	4.56
<i>Birth-rate</i>	„	24.42	<i>per 1000 of Population</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	„	15.16	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	„	.71	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	„	.27	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	„	121.89	„	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—This is slightly below the average for the past 10 years.

DEATH-RATE.—There is a slight improvement in the death-rate.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There is a marked increase in the Infantile Mortality. Fifty-four deaths of children under one year of age were registered. The Medical Officer of Health does not offer any remarks on the cause or prevention of this disease.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—152 cases were notified. Thirty-nine cases of Diphtheria were recorded. Of these nine died. Twelve were treated in the Isolation Hospital, where two died. There were cases at Nettleton, North Wraxall, Langley Burrell Without, Chippenham Without, and Yatton Keynell. Personal contact was in most instances responsible for the spread of the disease. The epidemic lingered in Kington Langley and Draycott parishes till November 23. The Kington Langley school, which the Draycott children attend, was closed in consequence of Scarlet Fever which was also prevalent in the autumn, in some houses both diseases being present at the same time. Ninety-three cases of Scarlet Fever were reported, with only two deaths. The particularly mild type of the Scarlet Fever epidemic no doubt conduced to its spread. Many of the recorded cases could be traced to infection from cases not recognised or notified. A special inspection was made by the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector of Nuisances in company with the District Councillor of the parish of Kington Langley.

WATER SUPPLY.—Owing very much to the dry season inconvenience was felt in many parishes from the shortness of water. The new reservoir of the Chippenham Urban Council now being constructed at a good elevation in Hardenhuish parish, will no doubt in future supply the houses in that neighbourhood.

SEWERAGE.—During the inspection of Kington Langley an open ditch which acts as a public sewer was found to be in places in bad order. The Council decided to take it over and see that it is kept in good order throughout its course in the future. Attention was also drawn to the drains from the churchyard, which had been blocked for some months.

HOUSING.—On some farms good cottages have been erected for the labourers working on the respective farms. This leaves houses in the more populous parts of the village, free for other occupants. In some villages such as North Wraxall there are several houses untenanted. In Box and Corsham new houses are cropping up. Houses are inspected before occupation. The Medical Officer of Health suggests to the Building Committee the desirability of a little relaxation of the building bye-laws in cases where it is proposed to add to and also alter existing cottages.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—An inspection was made of the paper mill at Slaughterford which was found in good order.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—There are only 21 dairies on the register.

CRICKLADE & WOOTTON BASSETT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—F. G. WRIDE, L.R.C.P., Ireland.

Area, 46,734 acres.

Population	...	...	(Census 1901)	11357	(Census 1891)	11835
Inhabited houses	...	...	"	2594	"	2658
Average number of persons per house	...	...	"	4.37	"	4.45
Birth-rate	...	...	...	28.17	per 1000 of Population	
Crude Death-rate	...	...	...	18.90	"	"
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	1.159	"	"
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	...	1.24	"	"
Deaths under one year of age	...	...	...	120.25	"	Births

BIRTH-RATE.—This shows a slight increase.

DEATH-RATE.—The Death-rate is somewhat higher than that of 1903. This increase is not due to any particular form of disease, and notwithstanding that a large number of cases of Diphtheria have occurred.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The Medical Officer of Health does not mention this important subject.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—There were 56 cases of Diphtheria notified. A large number of cases occurred amongst the children attending the Braydon School. The well at the school was contaminated by a drain pipe running in close proximity to it. There is no mention in the report of the outbreak of Diphtheria which occurred at Wootton Bassett. 37 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported, the greater number occurring in the Cricklade Sub-District. These cases could not be admitted to the Isolation Hospital, as it was occupied by patients suffering from Diphtheria.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—Two schools were closed on account of Diphtheria. The Medical Officer of Health does not mention the name of the schools. He also says some schools were closed on account of Measles. The names of the schools are not mentioned or periods of closure.

WATER SUPPLY.—There is great need in many places of there being an available supply of potable water, the cottagers drinking from shallow ponds and roadside ditches. No localities are mentioned and no suggestions are offered by the Medical Officer of Health for an improvement of this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

SEWERAGE.—The report on this important subject is as follows:—"The drainage I believe to be in much the same condition as last year, and I have nothing to refer to concerning that."

HOUSING.—"A small number of new cottages have been erected during the year, and old dilapidated cottages have been abandoned, I suppose on account of their not being worth repair."

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses have been carefully inspected, and have been found to be clean and well kept.

INSPECTION.—The report which is of the most meagre description contains no reference to this important subject.

DEVIZES.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—G. S. A. WAYLEN, L.R.C.P.

Area, 61,856 acres.

Population	...	...	(Census 1901)	13070	(Census 1891)	13318
Inhabited houses	...	...	"	2803	"	2898
Average number of persons per house	...	...	"	4.66	"	4.59
Birth-rate	...	...	...	21.46	per 1000 of Population	
Crude Death-rate	...	...	...	18.92	"	"
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	.46	"	"
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	...	.38	"	"
Deaths under one year of age	...	...	...	103.94	"	Births

BIRTH-RATE.—The number of Births was 279. The rate is an improvement upon the past 3 years, but still below the average for the past 10 years. There were 7 illegitimate births. In addition there were births of illegitimate children in the Workhouse who properly belonged to the Rural Districts.

DEATH-RATE.—The number of Deaths was 246. Of this number 78 were non-residents who died in the Asylum, and who should be deducted from the number, and in addition there were 25 either in the Union Infirmary or Devizes Hospital who belong to the Rural District, giving a total of net deaths of 193. This is higher than last year and above the average for the past ten years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The rate is about the same as that of last year, and would be considered altogether satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—53 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified from 12 different parishes, viz., Diphtheria 3, Scarlet Fever 39, Enteric Fever 1, Puerperal Fever 1, Erysipelas 8. Of the Scarlet Fever cases 18 occurred at Bishops Cannings, Stanton, and Allington, in a very unusual outbreak. Schools were closed on account of Infectious Disease as follows:—Erlestoke, Scarlet Fever; Poulshot, Measles; Potterne, Measles; Woodborough and Beechingstoke, Measles; Bishops Cannings, Mumps and Scarlet Fever. Measles was very prevalent during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.—One new well has been sunk and 13 wells cleansed and repaired. The Water Supply at Wedhampton has been improved by the enclosure of a spring. 5 samples of water were taken for analysis.

SEWERAGE.—The Breachfield Drainage Works have been a source of trouble during the year from their inability to deal with the large quantity of water and milk scourings received from the Wilts United Dairies, Ltd., a commercial enterprise that has largely grown up since the construction of the works. An arrangement has now been entered into with the Urban District Council that they should take the whole of this trade refuse, leaving the Breachfield Works to deal only with the Domestic sewage from the houses in the vicinity. An improved drainage system at Potterne inaugurated last year has worked well. Minor improvements in various Districts have been carried out by the Inspector amounting to a cost of £121.

HOUSING.—Eleven new houses have been completed, and 2 are in process of completion. Four were made fit for habitation, and 12 cleansed and limewashed.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—Factories and Workshops are regularly inspected. 72 premises including 29 bake-houses are under inspection.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—173 milksellers are on the register. There were no contraventions of the Acts, Orders, or Bye-laws.

HIGHWORTH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—F. E. STREETEN, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Area, 4972½ acres.

Population ...	...	(Census 1901)	14279	(Census 1891)	14309
Inhabited houses	...	„	3157	„	3015
Average number of persons per house	...	„	4.52	„	4.74
Birth-rate ...	...	...	30.48	per 1000 of Population.	
Crude Death-rate	...	...	15.76	„	„
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	.98	„	„
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	1.40	„	„
Deaths under one year of age	...	...	112.64	„	Births.

BIRTH-RATE.—There were 435 Births registered, being 1 in excess of the year 1903. The Birth-rate is a high one, and above the average of the past ten years.

DEATH-RATE.—The Deaths registered were 225, as compared with 243 in 1903. The Death-rate is below the average of the past ten years. Over 50 per cent of the deaths occurred in the parish of Stratton

St. Margaret, in which the Workhouse is situated. There were 20 deaths from Phthisis, 13 Cancer, 34 Heart Disease, and 20 Lung Diseases.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The rate is considerably lower than that for 1903 and the average of the preceding ten years. It is satisfactory to note that deaths due to improper feeding do not appear to have had much influence in raising the mortality.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—141 cases of infectious disease were notified, compared with 117 in 1903. Of these 119 were Scarlet Fever, this disease being endemic in the District. The type of the disease was most severe at Highworth, where 19 cases were notified; at Rodbourne Cheney there were 48 cases. The more populous parishes in the District appear to have suffered most from this disease, with the exception of Stratton St. Margaret, which was singularly free from infection. Twenty cases of Diphtheria were notified. Of the seven cases which occurred at Rodbourne Cheney, six occurred at the same time in one family. The two fatalities that occurred were in the Rodbourne outbreak, where the sanitary conditions existing in the locality leave much to be desired. A scheme for the sewerage and disposal of sewage for this parish is now engaging the attention of the District Council. The only case of Enteric Fever was introduced into the District in the person of a time-expired soldier, who came home during the period of incubation, and was admitted to the Isolation Hospital. For two years following no case of Enteric Fever has originated in the Highworth Rural District.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Of the 119 cases of Scarlet Fever no less than 109 were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, and of the 20 Diphtheria cases 15 were admitted. The Medical Officer of Health says: "From personal observation I am able to state confidently that in several instances fatalities from Scarlet Fever would undoubtedly have occurred had the children been allowed to remain in their homes." There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever during the year. There were two deaths among the Diphtheria cases, but both were admitted to hospital very late, one case only surviving one hour after admission. The early recognition and prompt treatment of Diphtheria is of the utmost importance.

WATER SUPPLY.—The report contains an excellent description of the Water Supply of the various parishes of the District. From this it appears that available supplies are in some instances not properly or sufficiently utilised, and some parishes are badly supplied. Coate calls for attention, as there is no doubt many of the supplies are polluted. At Blunsdon many houses are badly supplied. At Highworth a very large proportion of the wells have been proved by analysis to be polluted, and steps should be taken to close these wells, as the new public supply from Reddown, which is ample and pure, is now available. The water supply at Hampton has been found to be polluted. At Inglesham the water supply obtained from wells is bad and insufficient. In Rodbourne Cheney 233 wells are in use, and the water from many of these is bad. There is reason to believe that the District will shortly be supplied from the Swindon Corporation mains. At South Marston 100 houses are supplied from wells, seven from the canal, and one with rain water. Many of the wells are polluted. Considerable expense has been incurred in sinking new wells or in protecting the existing ones, and in many cases the expense has been useless. At Stratton St. Margaret there has been a serious shortage of water, owing to the laying of the new sewers having in many instances interfered with the supply of the surface wells. No progress has yet been made in laying the mains for the water supply of this village by the Swindon Corporation.

SEWERAGE.—In some of the parishes a large proportion of the houses have no drains. Rodbourne Cheney "is the most insanitary parish in the District. The outfalls, except at Moredon, are acute nuisances, and there has been much sickness during the year. The Rural District Council have now instructed their Engineers to get out a scheme for this parish." The Stratton St. Margaret scheme is now completed, and between 200 and 300 house connections already made. There has been considerable improvement throughout the District with regard to drainage during the year.

HOUSING.—The report describes the housing accommodation in each parish, with number of rooms and class of property. The District has been completely inspected during the year and records made. Twenty-three new houses have been built, six taken down, 15 made fit for habitation, 66 limewashed, and two cases of overcrowding dealt with.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—140 premises are under inspection. There are 33 Bakehouses, which are regularly inspected and registered, and limewashed twice a year. There are 17 Slaughterhouses licensed and regularly inspected, and kept in compliance with the Bye-laws.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—The excellent and elaborate report of 1903 has been improved upon, and a complete report made for each parish of number of farms, number of cows, description of character of farmsteads, cooling sheds, pasture and character and source of water supply and improvements effected during the year in each parish. It is computed that the cows on these dairy farms should produce

2,792,400 imperial gallons of milk annually. 212 persons are registered as being engaged in the milk trade.

INSPECTION.—From the report it is very evident that this district is most thoroughly and efficiently inspected, and it is the only Rural District in the county where the work is properly done. Complete records are kept of the results of inspection. The record of work done is a credit to the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector.

MALMESBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—CHARLES W. PITT, M.R.C.S.

Area, 58,357 acres.

<i>Population</i>	...	...	(Census 1901)	9822	(Census 1891)	10203
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	...	...	"	2222	"	2263
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	...	...	"	4.42	"	4.50
<i>Birth-rate</i>	...	...	...	18.95	per 1000 of Population	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	10.91	"	"
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	.20	"	"
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	.92	"	"
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	65.21	"	Births

BIRTH-RATE.—This shows a slight decrease.

DEATH-RATE.—There were 106 Deaths, and the rate is lower than that for 1903. There were 13 deaths from Cancer, 9 deaths from Phthisis, 18 deaths from Bronchitis, and 15 deaths from Heart Disease.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 12 deaths from infants under one year of age, giving an infant Death-rate of 65 per 1000. This is very satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Fifty-six cases of Infectious Disease were notified. Of these 54 were Scarlet Fever, 35 occurring in Brinkworth, 3 at Dauntsey, 1 at Little Somerford, 3 at Luckington, 11 at Willesley, and 1 at Knockdown. At Brinkworth the fever spread owing to the first cases not having been recognised, notified, or isolated. The Schools at Brinkworth were closed from September 26, 1904, to January 20, 1905. There was an epidemic of Measles at Rodbourne and Corston, and the Schools were closed from November 17 to December 12.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—The Rural Sanitary Authority shares with the Urban District Council the proprietorship of the wooden building at Backbridge. The Medical Officer of Health says :—"It answers the purpose at present. It can isolate half-a-dozen cases of infectious disease, such as Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, or Scarlet Fever. Small-pox cases only by themselves could be isolated here, for which, I believe, it was erected in 1896. A better conveyance is required here for patients to be removed in. Also a cooking apparatus, a boiler and a bath."

Although it is said that the Isolation Hospital is available no effort seems to have been made to utilise this hospital in preventing or arresting the outbreaks of Scarlet Fever. Possibly the "purpose" which the Medical Officer of Health suggests it at present serves is that of ornament not of use. From his report one would imagine that it is possible to treat Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, and Scarlet Fever at the same time. The conveyance at the hospital is very ancient, a grocer's covered van open at the front and would probably fall to pieces if it were taken over a rough road. It has the appearance of not having been used for many years.

WATER SUPPLY.—It is to be hoped that sinking wells at different parts of the village of Oaksey away from contaminated ground, may solve the problem of the water supply of this village. One well was lately sunk and good water flowed into the well. It is proposed to sink another well, and with the experience

thereby obtained, to then decide what further steps should be taken. Sherston water scheme has been completed, and the village is now supplied with pure water.

DAUNTSEY WATER SUPPLY.—From all accounts the supply from the Reservoir at Wait Hill has been fairly satisfactory; if an extra supply could be stored up there, it would be most advantageous to the farmers at Dauntsey, as in dry seasons it has to be turned off at times, and besides the supply of water is not sufficient in times of drought.

HOUSING.—No mention is made by the Medical Officer of Health of this important subject.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—This subject receives no attention in the report.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, BAKEHOUSES AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—These are not mentioned in the report.

INSPECTION.—No mention is made of any systematic or other inspection of the District. It is true that mention is made of frequent visits to Brinkworth and Willesley on account of outbreaks of infectious disease, but no mention is made of the sanitary condition of these or of any other parts of the District.

Drainage and Removal of House Refuse are not mentioned in the report.

MARLBOROUGH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—C. JAMES, M.R.C.S.

Area, 43795 acres.

<i>Population</i>	...	...	(Census 1901)	4571	(Census 1891)	5494
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	...	...	"	992	"	1162
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>			"	4.60	"	4.72
<i>Birth-rate</i>	...	...	...	...19.79	<i>per 1000 of Population.</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...12.09	"	"
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	... .00	"	"
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	... 1.099	"	"
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	122.22	"	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—There is a marked reduction in the Birth-rate.

DEATH-RATE.—55 deaths were registered. The Death-rate is also lower than that which obtained in 1903. Of the 55 deaths registered, 19 deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age, and 5 deaths were caused by Phthisis, 3 Cancer, and 6 deaths were due to accident. There appears to be a diminution in the mortality from Cancer.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 9 deaths in children under one year of age, or one out of every 10 born during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Eleven cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year. Of these 9 occurred in the parish of West Overton, all Scarlet Fever. One case of Diphtheria was notified from Preshute, and 1 of Erysipelas in Savernake Hospital. There was a very general prevalence of Measles in the District. At Avebury, Lockeridge, Mildenhall, Ogbourne St. Andrew, Ogbourne St. George, and Winterbourne Bassett, the Medical Officer of Health was applied to, and gave permission for these schools to be closed. Two or three other schools were closed without his assent.

WATER SUPPLY.—Two samples of water were analysed, and one from a farmyard at Avebury, was declared to be unfit for use. No complaints as to water supply were received, but the Medical Officer of Health fears there may be inconvenience in the future unless there is a considerable rainfall very soon.

SEWERAGE.—The cases of inefficient drains at Manton still stand over. The Medical Officer of Health does not consider the situation a very serious one. It appears that the owners cannot agree with the Thames Conservancy Authorities as to the disposal of the drainage.

HOUSING.—“I can see but little improvement in the housing accommodation. A few have been repaired, and three which were burnt in the parish of Berwick Bassett are being replaced by some new ones.”

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—Eleven Bakehouses, 9 Smiths' Shops, and 3 Slaughterhouses are under inspection. 18 Dairies were visited by the Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION.—“I have made systematic inspection of the District, sometimes with the Sanitary Inspector, and have not found any serious nuisance.”

MELKSHAM.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—W. INGRAM KEIR, F.R.C.S., Edin.

Area, 13777 acres.

Population	...	...	(Census 1901)	4440	(Census 1891)	4480
Inhabited houses	...	...	„	1012	„	993
Average number of persons per house	...	...	„	4.38	„	4.51
Birth-rate	...	...	...	27.77	per 1000 of Population.	
Crude Death-rate	...	...	...	16.03	„	„
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	.45	„	„
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	...	.90	„	„
Deaths under one year of age	...	...	...	97.56	„	Births

BIRTH-RATE.—123 Births were registered, 63 males and 60 females. The Birth-rate is slightly higher than that for 1903.

DEATH-RATE.—71 deaths were registered during the year. Of this number 9 from the town of Trowbridge died in the Union Workhouse, leaving 62 as the actual number of deaths in the district. The Death-rate is slightly above the average for the past 5 years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—This is a little higher than the rate which obtained in 1903.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—15 cases were notified: Scarlet Fever 6, Diphtheria 5, Erysipelas 3, Puerperal Fever 1. These cases were fairly evenly distributed throughout the District and do not call for special comment.

In addition to the notifiable diseases there were small outbreaks of Measles, Whooping Cough and German Measles.

WATER SUPPLY.—This was on the whole satisfactory, although there was the usual scarcity at New Buildings, Seend, and the lower parts of Seend Cleeve, necessitating the carting of water by the Council. It is gratifying to know that there is now a prospect of the Water Company's mains being extended to this part of the district. At Woodrow, Melksham Forest, the Water Company's mains were extended, and supply a long felt want. Six samples of water from shallow wells were analysed, and in two instances found badly polluted with sewage. One of these wells has been closed and the other satisfactorily repaired.

SEWERAGE.—The Council had several conferences with the Melksham Urban Council as to the desirability of draining Shurnhold and part of Melksham Forest into the Urban scheme. When the works are further advanced something definite will be done towards this end. 222 yards of new sewers were laid at Semington Road and 26 yards at Seend Cleeve. Many ditches receiving sewage were cleansed by the Council, at Hilperton, Beanacre, Melksham Forest and Semington Road. A greater use of earth closets would prevent much of this nuisance.

HOUSING.—26 cottages have been built, while one was condemned as unfit for occupation. The demand for houses still exceeds the supply. The great obstacles to building are the scarcity of land and the stringency of the Building Bye-laws of the Local Government Board.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—There are two factories and 8 bakehouses which are inspected, and found to be kept in good sanitary condition.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—62 premises are registered and regularly inspected. In six cases sanitary defects were discovered and subsequently remedied.

INSPECTION.—The systematic Inspections of the district required by Section 94 of the Public Health Act, were duly made and resulted in the discovery and subsequent abatement of upwards of 70 nuisances. Two very objectionable nuisances caused by the boiling up of putrid carcases for the purposes of pig feeding, were brought under the notice of the Council and effectually dealt with.

There were no cases of overcrowding discovered although he was led to suppose that this was a very common occurrence in rural districts.

MERE.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—B. POPE BARTLETT, M.R.C.S.

Area, 32309 acres.

Population	...	...	(Census 1901)	5210	(Census 1891)	5762
Inhabited houses	...	...	„	1258	„	1357
Average number of persons per house	...	...	„	4.14	„	4.24
Birth-rate	...	...	...	21.60	per 1000 of population	
Crude Death-rate	...	...	...	13.28	„	„
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	.39	„	„
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	...	.79	„	„
Deaths under one year of age	...	...	...	64.22	„	Births

BIRTH-RATE.—109 Births were registered, showing a decrease of 15 on last year; 62 of the births were males and 42 females.

DEATH-RATE.—During the year 67 Deaths were registered, against 65 in the previous year. 31 deaths, nearly one half, were of persons 65 years of age and upwards. There were 29 deaths of males and 38 of females. 24 deaths were due to diseases of the chest, viz., 4 to Phthisis, 4 to Bronchitis, 4 to Pneumonia, 1 to Pleurisy, 1 to congestion of the lungs, and 12 to Heart Disease. Six deaths were due to Cancer and six to accidents.

INFANILE MORTALITY.—7 deaths amongst children under 1 year of age took place. This is about the average for the past 6 or 7 years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—45 cases were notified during the year, viz., Scarlet Fever 20 cases, chiefly at Maiden Bradley and Zeals; Diphtheria 14 cases, 10 occurring in the parishes of Stourton and Kilmington during the first 3 months of the year, and were a continuation of the outbreak of 1903.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—During the year the schools in the district were closed for 25 weeks on account of infectious diseases in the parishes in which the schools are situated, viz., East Knoyle, 4 weeks Measles; Stourton, 17 weeks Diphtheria; Kilmington, 4 weeks Diphtheria. The Medical Officer of Health draws attention to the seriousness of school closure, which he says should not be done as a matter of routine or until an effort has been made to check the spread of the disease by the exclusion from school of the infected cases and those residing in the same house.

WATER SUPPLY.—The supply of water in the District during the past year has been, as a rule, plentiful. This has been due, however, in some parts, to the abundance of surface water, owing to the heavy rainfall, and in these cases the quality of the water has been far from satisfactory. In November the water supply of the village of West Knoyle was examined, and a report furnished to the Council showing the necessity of a better supply of water to this parish. The Medical Officer of Health believes the need of the parish as well as those of other parts of the District, which he has brought to the notice of the Council in former years, are receiving the Council's careful attention, and he trusts that they will succeed in their efforts to remedy the present deficiencies.

SEWERAGE.—There is no mention in the report of any sewers.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—There is no mention of this important subject in the report.

INSPECTION.—During the year visits of inspection, in company with the Inspector of Nuisances, were paid to all parts of the District, the sanitary condition of which is considered satisfactory.

PEWSEY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—E. W. RAYMENT, M.B. B.Sc. (Pub. Health).

Area, 75219 acres.

<i>Population</i>	<i>Census 1901)</i> 11211	<i>(Census 1891)</i> 11713
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	2576	2678
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	4.35	4.37
<i>Birth-rate</i>	27.57	per 1000 of population
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	17.71	„ „
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	1.71	„ „
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	1.17	„ „
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	85.24	„ <i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—There were 305 Births, 168 males and 137 females, registered during the year. There were 24 illegitimate births, viz., 15 males and 9 females.

DEATH-RATE.—There were 196 Deaths, 96 males and 100 females, a marked increase on the year 1903.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 36 deaths amongst children under 1 year of age, being 1 less than in the year 1903.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—35 cases of infectious disease were notified, viz., 1 Small-pox, 3 Diphtheria, 6 Erysipelas, 21 Scarlet Fever, and 2 Continued Fever. The Small-pox case occurred at Brimstone Bottom, and was an imported one. Of the Diphtheria cases 2 of a mild type were in Pewsey, and the other at Tidworth proved fatal. The Scarlet Fever cases were at Pewsey 3, Manningford 1, Burbage 6, and North Tidworth 11. There were 11 deaths from Measles.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—9 schools were closed for a period of 212 days during the year, 4 on account of Mumps, 1 on account of Itch, and the remainder Measles and Whooping Cough.

WATER SUPPLY.—Five new wells were sunk, 4 cleaned out, and 7 samples taken for analysis. The scheme for the water supply to Pewsey has made little progress during the year. This is to be regretted, as the Medical Officer of Health feels confident that the public health of the town would be much improved by a good and plentiful supply of pure water.

SEWERAGE.—There is no mention of this subject in the report. 17 additional privies were provided, 7 converted into pail closets, and 4 repaired.

SCAVENGING.—“The state of the streets in Pewsey leaves much to be desired. In summer time there is much dust and also quantities of dirty paper lying about the streets, in winter water lies in the gutters often for days at a time, and in my opinion this is one of the causes of the long continuance of the epidemic of Measles from which we have been suffering; in addition it produces an untidy and neglected aspect in general. The streets are rarely scraped or brushed up more than once a week, and then in a most inefficient manner. The sanitary condition of the cottages at Bell Street, Ludgershall, was fully gone into and a committee was appointed to investigate and remedy the defects found.”

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—Twenty-eight Factories, Workshops and Bakeries were inspected and certified for lime-washing by the Sanitary Inspector. Seven Slaughterhouses were inspected and cleansed.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—There are now 108 on the Register and under supervision. The Register had been previously neglected.

INSPECTION.—During the latter part of August and in September the District was systematically inspected by Dr. Fletcher, of the Local Government Board, he visiting the farmyards, dairies, and cottages in all the villages, and inspecting the wells. In many cases he was accompanied by the Medical Officer of Health and when not able the Sanitary Inspector assisted him.

RAMSBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—W. T. WOODFORDE, M.D.

Area, 51614 acres.

<i>Population</i>	(Census 1901)	7094	(Census 1891)	8023
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	„	1747	„	1877
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	„	4.06	„	4.27
<i>Birth-rate</i> ... ..	...	25.96	<i>per 1000 of population</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	15.40	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	.58	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	.44	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i> ... ..	...	73.44	„	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—177 Births were registered, 95 males and 82 females.

DEATH-RATE.—The Death-rate is the same as that which obtained for 1903. 105 Deaths were registered in the district. More than three-fifths of the year's mortality (74 deaths) was of persons above 65 years of age. Three deaths only resulted from Phthisis, but there were six from Cancer, and 10 from Pulmonary Inflammation.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—13 deaths occurred amongst infants under one year of age, six of whom died from developmental diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—25 cases were notified, viz.: Diphtheria 1, Erysipelas 11, Scarlet Fever 12 and Puerperal Fever 1. The first case of Scarlet Fever was reported in January, the infection being brought from Swindon. In May there was a small group of attacks at Bedwyn and Aldbourne. Towards the close of the year four cases were reported at Aldbourne, they had been unrecognised at first, Measles being prevalent at the time. No case was fatal. Measles was very prevalent in many localities in April, May, and the summer months, and later again in the year. It has specially affected the infants' departments of schools, several of which were in consequence temporarily closed by the Education Authority. One school was closed for an outbreak of Chicken Pox, and its sanitary arrangements being found unsatisfactory they were improved and put right.

WATER SUPPLY.—This is almost wholly from wells; in many places from deep ones in the chalk, and for the most part the water is of a fair quality.

SEWERAGE.—No part of the District is sewered.

HOUSING.—The "Rural" code of building bye-laws is in force, but building has been at a standstill during the year. only one set of plans having been passed in 1904. The Inspector of Nuisances reports the inspection of 820 premises. Nuisances were found on 116, and all but 12 were abated during the year. Many of the cottages are old, and more or less out of repair. Twelve dilapidated tenements have been put into order. Seven have been closed as unfit for occupation, and one was formally reported under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, while a few others were allowed after inspection to be still occupied for a time by one or two old people who were not able to obtain accommodation elsewhere.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—There are not now any factories in the district, nor are there any workplaces. Sixty-one workshops were inspected (including bakehouses), 40 being ordinary trade premises. Their sanitary arrangements were satisfactory, but six were found in a dirty state, and 29 were ordered to be limewashed.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Forty-one were inspected during the year, two required cleansing, one was specially reported on as to its sanitary accommodation, and it was voluntarily closed, while three were newly placed on the register.

SALISBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—C. G. B. KEMP, M.D.

Area 58,112 acres.

Population	(Census 1901)	12860	(Census 1891)	12894
Inhabited houses	„	2795	„	2706
Average number of persons per house	„	4.6	„	4.76
Birth-rate	„	23.73	per 1000 of population	
Crude Death-rate	„	17.58	„	„
Zymotic Death-rate	„	.54	„	„
Phthisis Death-rate	„	.85	„	„
Deaths under one year of age	„	62.29	„	Births

The statistics for this and the Salisbury Urban District are complicated by the fact that the areas were disturbed on November 9th, 1904, in consequence of the extension of the borough of Salisbury. Previous to the extension the Union Workhouse and Fisherton Asylum were in the Rural District.

BIRTH-RATE. —There is an improvement in the Birth-rate.

DEATH-RATE.—There is an increase in the Death-rate.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There is a marked increase in this rate.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Twenty-nine cases were notified, viz.:—Enteric Fever 6, Scarlet Fever 13, Diphtheria 7. Nearly every one of these cases was visited by the Inspector of Nuisances, who forwarded a report to the Medical Officer of Health, and in a large number of them disinfectants were supplied gratis.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—Previous to the “Extension” there were 23 schools in the District, now the number is reduced to 19. No schools have been ordered to be closed during the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—The project of a combined Isolation Hospital is moving slowly on, but it is to be hoped that it will soon be an accomplished fact.

WATER SUPPLY.—Thirteen new wells were sunk and one was repaired, another was ordered to be repaired, but this is still in hand. Two wells were closed as polluted. Nine houses have been supplied from waterworks and 4 from private reservoirs. Section 6 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, has been strictly administered during the year, and action has been taken in one case under Section 3 of the same Act. With the exception of Alderbury, which has a supply provided by Lord Radnor, the District obtains its supplies from wells, rain-water tanks and springs. The Medical Officer of Health regrets that no further steps have been taken with regard to the supply projected for Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham.

SEWERAGE.—There is no system of sewerage in any part of the District. Fisherton Anger Without and Milford Without, which stood badly in need of such system, have passed into the control of the Salisbury Urban Council and will no doubt be provided with sewerage. During the year 14 cases of defective house drains have been rectified. Ten cases of dumbwells giving rise to nuisance have been reported and dealt with. During the first part of the year refuse was collected from a total of 477 houses in Fisherton Anger Without and Milford Without: Now, however, these parishes have ceased to belong to the District. There is no system of scavenging in the rest of the District, and the onus of removal rests with the occupiers.

HOUSING.—Twenty-six new houses were erected in the District, but many of these have passed under the control of the Salisbury Urban Council in the parishes of Fisherton Anger Without and Milford Without. Two cases of overcrowding were dealt with and in 3 cases houses were ordered to be made fit for human habitation.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—There are 28 factories and 21 Workshops in the District. These are inspected as opportunity offers. In one case a breach of sanitary requirements was found and remedied, and in five cases action has been taken on matters referred to the Council by H.M. Inspector of Factories. One list of outworkers has been received, and the Medical Officer of Health is of opinion that others should be forthcoming.

43 Bakehouses are regularly inspected. Of these three have been certified for lime-washing, and in one insanitary conditions have been rectified.

INSPECTIONS.—The District is periodically and regularly inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector of Nuisances.

TETBURY (WILTSHIRE PORTION).

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—F. T. BOND, M.D.

Area, 3271 acres.

<i>Population</i>	...	...	...	(Census 1901)	356	(Census 1891)	403
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	...	...	...	„	77	„	—
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	...	...	...	„	4.62	„	—
<i>Birth-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	17.54	<i>per 1000 of population</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	20.46	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	.00	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	.00	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	...	166.66	„	<i>Births</i>

There were six Births and seven Deaths.

No cases of Infectious Disease were notified.

TISBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—C. A. ENSOR, M.R.C.S.

Area, 43562 acres.

<i>Population</i>	...	...	...	(Census 1901)	7714	(Census 1891)	8597
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	...	...	...	„	1845	„	1956
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	...	...	...	„	4.18	„	4.39
<i>Birth-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	25.50	<i>per 1000 of population</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	12.34	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	.13	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	...	1.07	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	...	73.68	„	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—190 Births were registered. The Birth-rate is about the average for Rural Districts in Wiltshire, and is much higher than that for this District for the past 10 years.

DEATH-RATE.—Only 92 Deaths were registered. The average number for the past 10 years is 117 so that the figures are satisfactory. Of this number 39 were over 70 years of age, a fact which speaks well for the longevity of the inhabitants generally. There were 8 deaths from Phthisis, a very considerable increase on the number recorded during 1903, and it is probably the highest Phthisis Death-rate in this District for many years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—14 children under the age of 12 months died during the year. This is a decided improvement upon last year's Infantile Death-rate, and is well below the average of the past 10 years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—13 cases were notified, 8 Scarlet Fever, 4 Erysipelas, and 1 Diphtheria. In April an imported case of Scarlet Fever occurred in Berwick St. John, and was undoubtedly contracted from outside the District. No more cases of Infectious Disease were notified until October, when almost simultaneously 2 children at Swallowcliffe and 5 at Ludwell contracted Scarlet Fever. It is probable that all these cases had a common origin. The only instance of Diphtheria was that of a child that died at Donhead St. Andrew. The origin was unable to be traced.

HOSPITAL ISOLATION.—Occasion for utilising the cottages at Teffont has not arisen during the year. In the event of the necessity occurring arrangements for the reception of patients can be made at short notice.

WATER SUPPLY.—A scheme for providing Tisbury with a public water supply has been considered at a Local Government Inquiry, and now awaits the decision of the Local Government Board.

During the year 210 houses have been supplied with water, a large proportion in the Semley neighbourhood, where a good supply has been provided by private enterprise. The water is taken from Semley Hill, and is collected into four reservoirs from which it is distributed to the village and some out-lying farms. A sample of the water was examined at the County Laboratory, and was found to be of very good quality and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

SEWERAGE.—The volume of sewage from the town of Tisbury passing through the filters is gradually increasing, and it will become a question for consideration whether in the future some better system than that in existence will become necessary in order to prevent further fouling of the stream into which the effluent passes. Over 80 connections have been effected in the drainage of houses. There is a gradual tendency towards the abolition of the old vault privies and the substitution of earth closets. Twelve of the latter have been provided during the year and altogether 32 connections in closets have been effected.

HOUSING.—There are several cottages in the District which are badly in need of repair, and one at least which although not at present absolutely unfit for habitation will very soon become so.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—There is little work to be done in connection with this Act, the number being so few. They are regularly inspected. Seven defects in cleanliness were observed, 5 of which had by the end of the year been remedied. The bakehouses are in good order, and are kept whitewashed and clean. None of them are underground, and the ventilation is sufficient.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—There is a considerable improvement on the result of the previous examinations. The M.O.H. says:—"I do not wish to infer that there is a general disregard on the part of the producers for the purity of the milk, but think that whilst many endeavour to keep it as free as possible from contamination, their efforts are nullified by others who are not so particular. The extra labour performed in grooming the cows would not be great, and there would at least be as much reason for the procedure as in the case of horses. Its cost would be met by a slightly increased charge to consumers." The cowsheds themselves are generally well kept. The number on the Register remains as before, viz., 135. During the year seven contraventions were dealt with, and these were of a minor character.

INSPECTIONS.—The greater part of the District was inspected by the Medical Officer of Health during the year. When he visited many houses some minor defects were noted, but on the whole the instances of non-sanitary conditions were very few. In a scattered country district like this where houses are few and far between, there are instances of which if they existed in a crowded area would be deleterious to health, but in isolated positions are more fitly described as sanitary inconveniences.

WARMINSTER.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—F. I. FLOWER, M.R.C.S.

Area, 51,894 acres.

<i>Population</i> ...	...	(Census 1901)	6234	(Census 1891)	7470
<i>Inhabited houses</i> ...	...	„	1611	„	1846
<i>Average number of persons per house</i> ...	...	„	3·86	„	4·04
<i>Birth-rate</i> ...	...	...	18·07	per 1000 of population	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i> ...	...	...	15·51	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i> ...	...	...	·85	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i> ...	...	...	·51	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i> ...	...	...	103·77	„	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—The Births which numbered 106 were much below the average.

DEATH-RATE.—During the year 91 deaths were registered, exactly the same number as in 1903. The ages of death ranged from 6 hours to 95 years, and 13 deaths were registered of persons over 80 years of age.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The deaths of children under one year of age numbered 11, 3 of which only lived a few hours.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—28 cases were notified. There were 5 cases of Diphtheria, two of which proved fatal. Two cases occurred at Corsley, two at Knook, and one at Codford. Of the 18 cases of Scarlet Fever, 6 occurred at Stockton, 8 at Heytesbury, and one at Sherrington, Corsley, Norton Bavant, and Knook. With one exception the cases were of the mildest description, and the only death that occurred was that of a young child aged eight months.

WATER SUPPLY.—There were no complaints of scarcity of water, which was more than ample in every part of the District. Progress is being made in the work of supplying Upton Scudamore with a proper water supply. The scheme is being prepared and a Local Government enquiry held.

SEWERAGE.—The sewage disposal is that common in most Rural Districts, in no part of the District are there any public sewers.

HOUSING.—“The state of the cottages at the entrance to the village of Imber, complained of in my last report, has been much improved and one of them is now unoccupied. Some of the cottages in the village of Imber are badly constructed and of inferior quality, but the general condition of the village is much improved, and many of the worst cottages are empty. The cottages complained of last year in the village of Stockton as being unsatisfactory, are now improved. The villages of Sherrington, Boyton, and Corton are low and damp in winter. There are a few unsatisfactory cottages in these villages, but many of the older cottages have been repaired. A great many of the cottages in the parish of Sutton Veny, owing to the decrease of the population, are uninhabited. Some of the old cottages at Knook near the river are now unoccupied. A number of the worst cottages in the villages of the Deverills and Crockerton are uninhabited.”

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—In most of the villages there is a carpenter's and blacksmith's shop. There are a few harness makers, two plumbers, and two brickfields, a few flour mills, mostly driven by water power, and two buildings where wool stapling is carried on. All these have been inspected, as also have the slaughter-house and bakehouse, which are in a satisfactory condition.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Special attention is being paid to the condition of dairies and cowsheds. The Medical Officer of Health has nothing to complain of in the dairies, and in the majority of cases the cowsheds are excellent, but many are much neglected, and some of the yards adjacent to the sheds are kept in a dirty state. The disgraceful state of one yard in the District was reported to the Council.

INSPECTION.—The District has been thoroughly inspected, and the results of these inspections reported to the Rural District Council at their monthly meetings.

WESTBURY & WHORWELLSDOWN.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—WALTER H. REED, M.R.C.S.

Area, 27,935 acres.

<i>Population</i>	...	...	(Census 1901)	6399	(Census 1891)	6786
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	...	...	"	1602	"	1364
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	...	...	"	3.99	"	4.97
<i>Birth-rate</i>	...	...	...	23.23	per 1000 of population	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	13.68	"	"
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	.00	"	"
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	...	...	...	.47	"	"
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	123.28	"	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—146 Births were registered, viz., 76 males and 70 females. The Birth-rate is slightly below that for 1903.

DEATH-RATE.—86 deaths were registered, 43 males and 43 females.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The infant mortality was rather higher than the average for the past ten years. The mortality was of the usual type: Premature Birth, General Debility, Marasmus, and Convulsions.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—48 cases of Infectious Disease were notified, 35 cases of Scarlet Fever, 10 Erysipelas, 2 Diphtheria, and 1 Puerperal Fever. Of the 35 cases of Scarlet Fever, the greater part were due to the continuance of the epidemic at Bratton which commenced in November of the previous year. Cases occurred in 19 houses. The difficulty of isolating cases in cottages is in many cases undesirable, and the difficulty of disinfecting rooms that are unceiled or open to staircases renders disinfection by fumigation a name rather than a reality. The case of Puerperal Fever at Drynham proved fatal. The house was very dirty, an over-flowing cess-pit close to the back door with pig styes also close by which were exceedingly foul. The house was closed until it was put into a proper sanitary condition.

WATER SUPPLY.—Steeple Ashton is still without a proper supply of water fit for domestic purposes, the water in the wells being dangerous. It is a matter which requires immediate attention. The springs selected for the contemplated supply of water for the village of Chapmanslade have been tested and found satisfactory.

SEWERAGE.—The scheme for the disposal of sewage at Road is in abeyance. It is to be hoped that it will be carried out at no distant date.

HOUSING.—Four new houses have been erected at Bratton under the Housing of the Working Classes Act. These are most satisfactory, and were immediately occupied when finished.

Three houses have been condemned as unfit for habitation, one at Drynham, one at Bradley, and the other at Hawkeridge. Two of these have been repaired and are now in occupation. The other is being repaired. There has been an increased amount of building during the year. One house at Dilton Marsh, 6 at Penleigh, 12 near Penknapp, 4 at Bratton, and 1 at Southwick have been erected, and plans have been passed for a house at Keevil and re-building a cottage at Bratton.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—The Inspector of Nuisances says:—"I regret to say that the cowsheds and piggeries generally throughout the District are not kept so clean as they should be, the sanitary value of hot linewash on the walls and partitions of these buildings does not seem to be realised by the majority of tenants. The yards in many cases are full of holes allowing stagnant water to lie about, a very little extra attention would effect a great improvement in this direction." 79 persons are on the register as being engaged in the milk trade.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.—13 are on the Register and under inspection.

INSPECTION.—The District is periodically inspected by the Medical Officer of Health. He says:—"I have little to complain of."

WILTON.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—CHARLES R. STRATON, F.R.C.S., Edin.

Area, 54,290 acres.

<i>Population</i>	(Census 1901)	7467	(Census 1891)	7774
<i>Inhabited houses</i>	„	1715	„	1739
<i>Average number of persons per house</i>	„	4.35	„	4.47
<i>Birth-rate</i> ... ..	...	21.42	<i>per 1000 of population</i>	
<i>Crude Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	13.15	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	.13	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i> ... ..	...	1.22	„	„
<i>Deaths under one year of age</i> ... ..	...	75.94	„	<i>Births</i>

BIRTH-RATE.—The Birth-rate is much below the average for the past ten years. 158 Births were registered, of which 80 were males and 78 females.

DEATH-RATE.—97 deaths were registered, 58 males and 39 females. The Death-rate, although under the average of the past ten years is greater than that of 1903. Nine deaths from Phthisis and 8 from Cancer were registered.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—22 cases were notified, as against 31 in 1903, and 68 in 1902. There were 10 cases of Diphtheria notified in the Bishopstone District. The five cases of Scarlet Fever were also in the same District. One case of Enteric Fever was notified from Bemerton. Its origin was untraced. The schools at Bishopstone were closed from June 5th to July 8th on account of Diphtheria.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—The lease of the premises at Compton Wood which were used by this Authority as a Small-pox Hospital, has now expired, and there is at present no accommodation for the isolation of this disease. The Medical Officer of Health suggests that his authority should call upon the Hospital Committee to make the necessary provision for isolating Small-pox. There is no doubt that the iron building and Berthon huts already provided by the Salisbury Urban and Rural authorities on the Race Plain would be sufficient for the four authorities.

WATER SUPPLY.—The public water supplies in the District have been very satisfactory as regards quality and quantity. 35 samples of water drawn from private wells and tanks were examined. Of these 4 were unfit for use. One well was closed and 3 were cleansed and repaired.

SEWERAGE.—Sixteen drains have been laid or relaid. Ten privies have been cleansed, repaired, or rebuilt, and 4 converted into earth closets. A complaint was made by the Wilton Urban Council that a drain at Barford St. Martin which received the sewage of 6 houses was allowed to discharge into the Nadder untreated. The sewerage of Bemerton has been completed and the pumping station erected. So far the mains have not yet been laid across the valley, nor has the disposal area been laid out. The Wilton Urban Authority has decided to join the Bemerton scheme. The Medical Officer of Health suggests to his Authority to reconsider that part of the sewage scheme from the pumping station onwards. To deliver the sewage at Salisbury would entail a dead lift of only a few feet, and would be much less costly than to deliver it at Harnham, while this authority would be relieved of the responsibility of maintaining a sewage farm there.

HOUSING.—23 new houses have been erected during the year. Two houses were closed as unfit for human habitation, 22 houses which had become insanitary were again rendered fit for occupation. 59 houses have been cleansed and limewashed. One case of overcrowding was abated.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—Twenty-nine factories and workshops were inspected during the year, and two were certified for limewashing.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.—98 dairies and milkshops are on the Register and under supervision. In consequence of the recent decision in the case of the Aylesbury Dairy Company, the Medical Officer of Health anticipates much less difficulty in the future in getting notices for cleansing and repairs promptly carried out.

INSPECTION.—The District has been systematically inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE 1 A.

Table showing Estimated Population, Birth-Rate, Death-Rate and number of Deaths in Public Institutions, &c., in the Urban Districts of the County of Wilts in the year 1904.

Urban Districts of the County of Wilts.	Population Estimated 1904	Births.		Deaths under one year of age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions	Deaths of Non- residents registered in District	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District	Deaths at all Ages. Nett.	
		No.	Rate*	No.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	No.	Rate*				No.	Rate*
Bradford-on-Avon ..	4386	89	20.29	11	123.59	48	10.94	..	..	3	51	11.62
Calne	3446	74	21.47	7	94.59	53	16.83	10	5	3	56	16.25
Chippenham	5210	131	25.14	8	61.06	55	10.53	5	2	10	63	12.09
Devizes	6563	160	24.37	9	56.25	103	15.69	35	26	..	77	11.73
Malmesbury	2821	81	28.71	11	135.80	52	18.43	..	..	..	52	18.43
Marlborough	3897	61	15.65	7	114.75	48	12.31	10	..	2	50	12.83
Melksham	2561	59	23.03	6	101.69	33	12.88	..	..	..	33	12.88
†Salisbury	17592	440	25.01	49	111.36	238	13.52	57	30	..	208	11.82
Swindon	48607	1447	29.76	161	111.26	602	12.38	35	13	2	591	12.15
Trowbridge	11370	254	22.33	19	74.80	143	12.57	..	..	..	143	12.57
Warminster	5543	122	22.00	8	65.57	81	14.61	20	5	..	76	13.71
Westbury	3295	82	24.88	8	97.56	55	16.69	..	..	..	55	16.69
Wilton	2227	50	22.45	2	40.00	28	12.57	..	..	..	28	12.57
TOTAL	117518	3050	25.95	306	100.32	1544	13.13	172	81	20	1483	12.61

* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.
† These figures do not take into consideration the extension of the Borough Area which took place in November, 1904, but are calculated on the old area.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.
By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness and dying there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

TABLE 1 B.

Table showing Estimated Population, Birth-Rate, Death-Rate and number of Deaths in Public Institutions, &c., in the Rural Districts of the County of Wilts, in the year 1904.

Rural Districts of the County of Wilts.	Population Estimated 1904	Births.		Deaths under one year of age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions	Deaths of Non- residents registered in District	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District	Deaths at all Ages. Nett.	
		No.	Rate*	No.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	No.	Rate*				No.	Rate*
Amesbury	8685	235	27.05	12	51.06	107	12.32	25	12	..	95	10.93
Bradford-on-Avon ..	4970	120	24.14	9	75.00	77	15.49	5	2	2	77	15.49
Calne	4494	88	19.58	6	68.18	52	11.57	..	..	6	58	12.90
Chippenham	18135	443	24.42	54	121.89	275	15.16	29	10	2	267	14.72
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett }	11214	316	28.17	38	120.25	212	18.90	..	..	..	212	18.90
Devizes	12996	279	21.46	29	103.94	246	18.92	84	78	25	193	14.85
Highworth	14270	435	30.48	49	112.64	225	15.76	49	33	1	193	13.52
Malmesbury	9708	184	18.95	12	65.21	106	10.91	..	..	..	106	10.91
Marlborough	4547	90	19.79	11	122.22	55	12.09	8	5	1	51	11.21
Melksham	4428	123	27.77	12	97.56	71	16.03	14	13	..	58	13.09
Mere	5045	109	21.60	7	64.22	67	13.28	5	..	..	67	13.28
Pewsey	11061	305	27.57	26	85.24	196	17.71	18	..	..	196	17.71
Ramsbury	6816	177	25.96	13	73.44	105	15.40	..	..	13	118	17.31
†Salisbury	12850	305	23.73	19	62.29	226	17.58	56	57	8	177	13.77
Tisbury	7450	190	25.50	14	73.68	92	12.34	7	..	..	92	12.34
Warminster	5864	106	18.07	11	103.77	91	15.51	..	..	5	96	16.37
Westbury and Whorwellsdown }	6283	146	23.23	18	123.28	86	13.68	..	..	..	86	13.68
Wilton	7375	158	21.42	12	75.94	97	13.15	..	..	..	97	13.15
Tetbury (Wilts portion)	342	6	17.54	1	166.66	7	20.46	3	2	..	5	14.61
TOTAL	156533	3815	24.37	353	92.52	2393	15.28	303	212	63	2244	14.33

* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.
† These figures do not take into consideration the extension of the Borough Area which took place in November, 1904, but are calculated on the old area.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10, and the addition of the number in Column 11.
By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness and dying there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

TABLE 2 A.—Table of Deaths during the Year 1904, in the Urban Districts of the County of Wilts, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.		DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES at subjoined ages.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES.																																	
		Total at all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-Cough.	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	Croup.	Fever.			Epidemic Influenza.	Cholera.	Plague.	Diarrhœa.	Enteritis.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Other septic diseases.	Phthisis.	Other Tubercular diseases.	Cancer, Malignant disease.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Pleurisy.	Other diseases of Respiratory organs.	Alcoholism.	Cirrhosis of Liver.	Venereal diseases.	Premature birth.	Diseases and acci- dents of parturition.	Heart diseases.	Accidents.	Suicides.	All other causes.	All causes.
															Typhus.	Enteric.	Other continued																									
Bradford-on-Avon	..	48	11	2	7	28	2	3	..	2	9	1	..	2	2	1	4	1	21	48		
Calne	58	7	1	..	2	13	35	1	1	..	3	10	2	2	..	2	1	7	1	..	28	58		
Chippenham	..	63	8	5	..	6	14	30	1	2	3	1	8	3	5	1	1	2	7	29	63		
Devizes	..	77	9	5	2	5	23	33	..	4	2	9	1	7	11	4	..	1	1	..	11	1	..	25	77		
Malmesbury	..	52	11	3	..	4	11	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	3	2	2	5	..	..	..	..	2	..	4	2	..	30	52	
Marlborough	..	50	7	3	1	2	13	24	..	2	..	2	3	2	6	1	2	1	..	4	27	50		
Melksham	..	33	6	1	..	3	8	15	5	..	1	3	1	8	15	33		
Salisbury	..	213	49	12	4	12	75	61	..	3	..	1	2	4	7	1	1	..	23	6	23	14	10	1	..	5	2	18	2	24	3	1	62	213		
Swindon	..	602	161	83	39	26	166	127	..	30	6	6	20	1	..	1	..	7	11	13	..	3	4	45	17	29	57	54	..	12	7	..	30	5	42	8	1	193	602	
Trowbridge	..	143	19	9	4	8	48	55	2	1	4	1	5	1	..	1	..	15	9	9	13	5	..	5	1	..	3	..	19	3	1	45	143		
Warminster	..	81	8	2	5	2	21	43	1	3	1	..	4	4	6	15	2	..	1	1	..	10	1	1	31	81		
Westbury	..	55	8	1	2	3	22	19	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	3	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	3	..	29	55	
Wilton ..	..	28	2	2	2	1	6	15	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	15	28	
TOTAL	..	1503	306	127	59	76	427	508	..	39	9	11	30	1	..	2	..	9	30	21	1	6	4	121	46	104	146	86	1	21	17	3	59	10	145	26	5	550	1503	

TABLE 2 B.—Table of Deaths during the Year 1904, in the Rural Districts of the County of Wilts, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES at subjoined ages.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES.																																	
	Total at all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-Cough.	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	Croup.	Fever.			Epidemic Influenza.	Cholera.	Plague.	Diarrhœa.	Enteritis.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Other septic diseases.	Phthisis.	Other Tubercular diseases.	Cancer, Malignant disease.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Pleurisy.	Other diseases of Respiratory organs.	Alcoholism.	Cirrhosis of Liver.	Venereal diseases.	Premature birth.	Diseases and acci- dents of parturition.	Heart diseases.	Accidents.	Suicides.	All other causes.	All causes.
														Typhus.	Enteric.	Other continued																									
Amesbury	95	12	2	2	4	31	44	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	14	5	6	..	1	2	..	2	1	15	1	..	41	95
Bradford-on-Avon ..	77	9	3	4	2	24	35	..	1	..	1	2	1	..	1	..	..	5	..	..	..	1	6	..	10	9	5	..	4	..	..	1	..	6	1	1	21	77	
Calne	52	6	4	2	2	18	20	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	14	1	..	21	52	
Chippenham	267	53	8	16	17	45	128	..	..	2	..	9	..	..	..	10	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	5	2	4	16	15	..	2	1	..	1	2	23	9	1	162	267
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett }	212	38	16	16	9	43	90	..	2	2	..	8	..	..	..	5	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	14	3	14	16	10	..	..	..	..	6	..	29	1	2	96	212
Devizes	193	29	7	4	7	47	99	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	1	1	..	..	5	1	15	15	13	..	1	..	..	9	1	31	3	4	86	193
Highworth	225	49	18	9	11	55	83	..	6	..	3	2	2	..	..	1	..	..	3	1	..	..	1	20	5	13	14	8	..	..	1	2	5	2	34	2	..	100	225
Malmesbury	106	13	4	..	3	36	50	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	9	2	13	18	6	..	1	..	..	1	..	15	2	2	35	106	
Marlborough	51	9	3	2	2	16	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	3	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	6	..	26	51	
Melksham	71	12	4	2	3	14	36	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	4	6	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	11	..	1	39	71
Mere	67	7	4	2	6	17	31	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	4	..	6	4	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	12	6	..	24	67
Pewsey	195	22	11	8	8	63	83	..	11	..	3	1	3	..	2	1	1	1	13	6	5	13	11	1	1	6	..	8	1	41	7	1	58	195	
Ramsbury	118	13	6	..	2	23	74	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	2	2	..	1	1	3	1	6	6	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	3	..	60	118
Salisbury	172	19	8	9	8	46	82	..	2	1	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	2	..	..	4	11	5	10	7	6	..	..	5	..	4	..	33	5	2	70	172
Tisbury	92	14	2	5	..	22	49	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	8	1	8	8	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	6	6	2	43	92
Warminster	91	8	7	3	3	20	50	..	..	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	6	17	5	..	1	..	..	2	1	21	4	..	25	91
Westbury and Whorwellsdown }	86	18	4	2	2	19	41	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	3	3	9	6	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	..	..	45	86
Wilton	97	12	2	3	4	26	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	9	3	8	13	6	..	..	..	..	3	..	8	1	..	45	97
Tetbury (Wilts Portion)	5	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	5
TOTAL	2272	344	113	89	93	565	1068	..	28	9	12	30	3	..	4	..	27	22	13	4	2	12	131	33	151	178	113	2	12	18	2	43	8	343	58	16	998	2272	

TABLE 3 A.—Table of New Cases of Infectious Disease coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1904, in the Urban Districts of the County of Wilts, classified according to Diseases and Localities; showing also the number of cases sent to Hospital and the total number of Deaths from such Diseases; also the Deaths which occurred in Hospital.

DISTRICT.					Smallpox	Cholera	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhus Fever	Enteric Fever	Relapsing Fever	Continued Fever	Puerperal Fever		Smallpox	Cholera	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhus Fever	Enteric Fever	Continued Fever	Puerperal Fever
Bradford-on-Avon	..	..	Total cases reported	4	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			Total deaths	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Calne	..	..	Total cases reported	4	..	..	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
			Total deaths	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chippenham	..	..	Total cases reported	46	..	..	10	..	5	31	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	21	..	..	4	..	..	17	..	..	..
			Total deaths	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Deaths in hospital	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Devizes	..	..	Total cases reported	14	..	..	4	..	4	6	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
			Total deaths	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malmesbury	..	..	Total cases reported	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			Total deaths	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	..	..	Total cases reported	5	..	..	1	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
			Total deaths	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Melksham	..	..	Total cases reported	7	..	..	1	..	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			Total deaths	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Salisbury	..	..	Total cases reported	67	..	..	37	..	14	14	..	..	..	..	2	Cases treated in hospital	12	..	..	1	..	..	11	..	..	..
			Total deaths	4	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	Deaths in hospital	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Swindon	..	..	Total cases reported	386	..	..	148	1	23	211	..	3	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	335	..	..	134	..	..	199	..	2	..
			Total deaths	30	..	..	20	..	3	6	..	1	..	..	..	Deaths in hospital	16	..	..	10	..	..	5	..	1	..
Trowbridge	..	..	Total cases reported	63	..	..	13	..	5	40	..	5	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	23	..	..	..	..	..	23	..	..	..
			Total deaths	8	..	..	4	..	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	Deaths in hospital	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Warminster	..	..	Total cases reported	16	..	..	1	..	3	12	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	6	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..
			Total deaths	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westbury	..	..	Total cases reported	24	..	..	..	..	5	19	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			Total deaths	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wilton	..	..	Total cases reported	29	..	..	19	..	3	7	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			Total deaths	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	..	..	Total cases reported	667	..	..	235	1	71	349	..	9	..	..	2	Cases treated in hospital	402	..	..	142	..	..	258	..	2	..
			Total deaths	48	..	..	30	..	6	9	..	2	..	..	1	Deaths in hospital	19	..	..	11	..	..	7	..	1	..

TABLE 3 B.—Table of New Cases of Infectious Disease coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1904, in the Rural Districts of the County of Wilts, classified according to Diseases and Localities; showing also the number of cases sent to Hospital and the total number of Deaths from such Diseases; also the Deaths which occurred in Hospital.

DISTRICT.						Smallpox	Cholera	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhus Fever	Enteric Fever	Relapsing Fever	Continued Fever	Puerperal Fever			Smallpox	Cholera	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhus Fever	Enteric Fever	Relapsing Fever	Continued Fever	Puerperal Fever
Amesbury	Total cases reported		24	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	17	..	5	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bradford-on-Avon .. .	Total cases reported		20	..	..	..	..	9	..	5	3	..	3	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		3	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Calne	Total cases reported		12	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	6	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	5	..	..	3	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chippenham	Total cases reported		152	..	..	..	..	39	..	18	93	..	1	..	..	1	Cases treated in hospital	60	..	..	12	..	..	48	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		11	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cricklade & Wootton Bassett	Total cases reported		98	..	..	..	..	56	..	3	37	..	..	..	..	2	Cases treated in hospital	45	..	..	45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		12	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2		Deaths in hospital	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Devizes	Total cases reported		53	..	..	..	..	3	..	7	39	..	1	..	..	3	Cases treated in hospital	7	..	..	2	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Highworth	Total cases reported		142	..	..	..	..	20	..	2	119	..	1	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	125	..	..	15	..	..	109	..	1	..	..	..
	Total deaths		2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	5	..	..	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Malmesbury	Total cases reported		56	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	54	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	Total cases reported		11	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	9	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	10	..	..	1	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Melksham	Total cases reported		15	..	..	..	..	5	..	3	6	..	..	..	..	1	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mere	Total cases reported		45	..	..	..	..	14	..	1	28	..	2	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pewsey	Total cases reported		35	..	..	..	1	3	..	6	21	..	2	..	2	..	Cases treated in hospital	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ramsbury	Total cases reported		25	..	..	..	..	1	..	11	12	..	..	..	..	1	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Salisbury	Total cases reported		29	..	..	..	..	7	..	3	13	..	6	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		3	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tisbury	Total cases reported		13	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	8	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Warminster	Total cases reported		28	..	..	..	..	5	..	5	18	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		3	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westbury & Whorwellsdown	Total cases reported		48	..	..	..	..	2	..	10	35	..	..	..	..	1	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wilton	Total cases reported		22	..	..	..	..	10	..	6	5	..	1	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tetbury	Total cases reported		—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Cases treated in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths		—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		Deaths in hospital	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	Total cases reported		828	..	..	..	1	180	..	91	523	..	22	..	2	9	Cases treated in hospital	254	1	..	78	..	..	174	..	1	..	..	..
	Total deaths		49	..	..	..	..	30	..	2	9	..	4	..	..	4		Deaths in hospital	10	..	..	9	..	..	1	..	..	..	..

Nature of Nuisances met with in the various Urban Districts in the County of Wilts during the year 1904, and Summary of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances Department.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction of Medical Officer of Health.					Houses.				Overcrowding.	House Drains.				Water Closets.		Privies and Ashpits.				Scavenging.						Smoke Nuisances.		Offensive Trades.		Water Supply.				Slaughter Houses.			Dairies and Cowsheds.				Factories, Workshops, and Bakehouses.				Lodging Houses.			Food.	Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance.	Accumulation of Offensive Rubbish.	Legal Proceedings.			Clerical Work.				
	No. of Cases inquired into.	No. of Houses Disinfected and Cleansed.	No. of Patients removed to Hospital.	Lots of Bedding, Clothing, &c., Disinfected or Destroyed.	Cases of Illegal Exposure reported.	No. erected (if information obtainable).	No. made fit for Habitation.	No. closed as unfit for Habitation.	No. cleansed and Linewashed.		No. of Cases abated.	No. Laid or Relaid.	No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated	No. of Defective Waste Pipes rectified.	No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks, and Urinals rectified.	No. of Dumbwells rectified.	No. of additional W.C.'s provided.	No. Repaired, Ventilated, and supplied with Flush Cisterns.	No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided.	No. converted to W.C.'s or Slop Closets.	No. converted to Pall-Closets.	No. Repaired.	Total No. of Houses from which Refuse removable by the Authority.	Total No. of Privies and Ashpits Cleansed.	Total No. of Portable Receptacles Cleansed.	Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Excrement Removed.	Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Refuse Removed.	No. of New Dust Receptacles provided.	No. under Observation.	No. abated.	No. under Observation.	No. Improperly Conducted.	No. of Wells sunk.	No. of Wells Cleansed and Repaired.	No. of Wells Closed as Polluted.	No. of Houses supplied from Waterworks (during year).	No. of Samples taken for Analysis.	No. Registered or Licensed.	No. Regularly Inspected.	No. Cleaned and Repaired.	No. of persons engaged in Milk Trade now on Register, under Supervision.	No. of Contravention of Acts, Orders, and Bye-laws dealt with.	No. of Infected Milk Supplies reported by the Inspector.	No. under Inspection.	No. Certified for Lime-washing by Inspector.	No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances.	No. employing Young Persons, &c. reported to Medical Officer of Health.	No. on Register.				No. Regularly Inspected.	No. Cleansed and Repaired.	No. of Seizures as unfit for Consumption.	No. of Cases of Removal on Notice.	No. of Removals.	No. taken.	No. of Convictions obtained.	No. of Cases withdrawn or Dismissed.
Bradford-on-Avon	2	2	..	2	..	1	4	13	3	2	9	..	21	1120	6	1	1	1	4	1	5	5	..	8	30	11	1	1	1	2	64	60	4		
Caine	5	9	9	1	7	9	..	4	409	370	136	1	1	..	5	..	9	7	7	4	9	9	1	..	1	1	1	1	
Chippenham	..	39	41	20	..	8	6	2	14	58	3	1	..	8	8	..	2	..	5	1037	1	..	11	1	7	29	2	3	..	1	1	2	8	40	35	5			
Devizes	..	14	11	2	11	6	7	..	5	10	..	6	2	1	25	1100	24	8	8	8	2	31	2	2	1	47	47	..				
Malmesbury	1	..	1	1	7	610	970	2	3	620	5	4	4	4	6	..	1	22	1	2	..	1	1	3	6	6	..	
Marlborough	9	3	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	..	3	4	3	4	850	2	5	5	5	4	47	8	1	1	1	1	..	17	19	19	..		
Melksham	..	7	12	6	5	2	62	85	4	9	..	10	4	..	4	4	..	18	1302	1	2	1	10	..	7	7	14	9	1	5	133	133	..						
Salisbury	..	57	47	10	..	10	22	..	70	7	32	60	12	94	3	4	144	3918	6760	25	5	5	5	16	18	18	18	34	246	3	20	2	2	2	2	..	18	23	3	1	2	397		
Swindon	..	386	413	334	345	..	325	..	92	22	124	486	17	31	3	4	408	21	10943	..	10943	..	10400	..	13	4	325	16	21	21	9	49	14	..	270	74	16	..	2	2	..	6	45	138	1	1	..	343	343	..	
Trowbridge	..	40	34	23	23	..	22	16	..	2	3	20	103	1	3	..	4	56	2808	1	1	..	1	2	7	4	12	12	12	36	115	6	16	10	1	1	1	2	14	10	172	148	24	
Warminster	..	16	7	6	6	..	1	2	..	2	6	5	3	2	2	6	..	3	3	786	1210	1016	1	10	10	..	24	39	1	1	1	1	22	22	..	
Westbury	..	19	19	..	19	..	6	1	..	2	26	17	3	9	4	13	13	..	12	5	8	101	19	7	7	..	12	26	3	7	99	106	..				
Wilton	29	15	13	3	4	26	1	7	16	2	5	..	13	6	545	441	..	3	535	4	3	3	3	6	15	3	3	2	2	3	39	35	4		
TOTAL	..	609	611	396	412	..	403	44	5	212	45	319	865	51	163	15	75	636	3	46	8	38	21318	10	10943	412	24027	25	24	13	21	1	..	3	6	2630	66	109	107	80	194	14	1	379	117	61	14	13	12	6	9	88	218	4	2	2	1381	953	37

Nature of Nuisances met with in the various Rural Districts in the County of Wilts during the year 1904, and Summary of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances Department.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction of Medical Officer of Health.					Houses.				Overcrowding.	House Drains.				Water Closets.		Privies and Ashpits.			Scavenging.						Smoke Nuisances.		Offensive Trades.		Water Supply.					Slaughter Houses.			Dairies and Cowsheds.			Factories, Workshops, and Bakehouses.				Lodging Houses.			Food.		Legal Proceedings.			Clerical Work.					
	No. of Cases inquired into.	No. of Houses Disinfected and Cleansed.	No. of Patients removed to Hospital.	Lots of Bedding, Clothing, &c., Disinfected or Destroyed.	Cases of Illegal Exposure reported.	No. erected (if information obtainable).	No. made fit for Habitation.	No. closed as unfit for Habitation.	No. cleansed and Limewashed.		No. of Cases abated.	No. Laid or Relaid.	No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated.	No. of Defective Waste Pipes rectified.	No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks, and Urinals rectified.	No. of Dumbwells rectified.	No of additional W.C.'s provided.	No. repaired, Ventilated, and supplied with Flush Cisterns.	No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided.	No. converted to W.C.'s or Slop Closets.	No. converted to Pail-Closets.	No. Repaired.	Total No. of Houses from which Refuse removable by the Authority.	Total No. of Privies and Ashpits Cleansed.	Total No. of Portable Receptacles Cleansed.	Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Excrement Removed.	Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Refuse Removed.	No. of New Dust Receptacles provided.	No. under Observation.	No. abated.	No. under Observation.	No. Improperly Conducted.	No. of Wells sunk.	No. of Wells Cleansed and Repaired.	No. of Wells Closed as Polluted.	No. of Houses supplied from Waterworks (during year).	No. of Samples taken for Analysis.	No. Registered or Licensed.	No. Regularly Inspected.	No. Cleaned and Repaired.	No. of persons engaged in Milk Trade now on Register, under Supervision.	No. of Contravention of Acts, Orders, and Bye-laws dealt with.	No. of Infected Milk Supplies reported by the Inspector.	No. under Inspection.	No. Certified for Lime-washing by Inspector.	No of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances.	No. employing 'Young Persons,' &c. reported to Medical Officer of Health.	No. on Register.	No. Regularly Inspected.	No. Cleansed and Repaired.	No. of Seizures as unfit for Consumption.	No. of Cases of Removal on Notice.	No. of Removals.	No. taken.	No. of Convictions obtained.	No. of Cases withdrawn or Dismissed.	No. of Notices served.	No. of Notices complied with.
Amesbury	23	17	1	40	8	..	35	8	2	6	..	7	13	..	18	10	31	12	20	..	3	..	32	16	3	5	34	30	4				
Bradford-on-Avon	44	9	..	9	..	14	8	2	..	2	..	1	..	1	2	1	..	3	..	1	1	..	35	3	48	9	..	17	44	44	10							
Calne	6	4	6	2	98	9	3	2	1									
Chippenham	89	76	89	6	5	..	7	3	10	640	2	2	5	6	6	21	5	11	23	23	..							
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett	..	82	54	15	2	2	..	10	2	1	2	2	15	..	7	14	26	1	11	..	109	25	2	27	3	1	2	97	97	..				
Devizes	11	4	9	12	2	18	51	3	9	23	1	13	5	..	8	1	173	72	9	58	63	..	445	410	35					
Highworth ..	136	130	125	130	..	23	15	1	66	2	199	320	..	259	99	26	6	..	188	78	1	1	7	1	1079	30	17	17	6	212	118	..	164	134	9	2	..	324	322	2					
Malmesbury	27	22	..	22	1	..	3	20	20	1	258	2	10	57	..	1	15	3	3	31	29	2						
Marlborough	8	8	8	1	5	..	6	1	..	2	..	3	..	13	20	1	..	4	4	8								
Melksham	74	26	4	1	9	22	6	..	6	10	2	1	..	2	1	26	6	2	2	..	62	6	..	8	12	10	1	1	..	74	74	..				
Mere	38	38	4	4	1	12	2	29	19	7	5	3	12	5	10	3	18	26	1	7	..	159	8	..	2	2	48	17	9	3	48	..	54	51	3					
Pewsey	92	12	10	1	1	17	..	7	4	..	15	16	16	5	4	7	..	7	7	108	28	28	49	49	..							
Ramsbury ..	32	25	..	25	..	1	..	7	12	1	1	5	4	..	1	5	..	11	1	3	5	5	41	61	29	5	36	7	8	..	33	27	6			
Salisbury	17	14	26	3	2	2	12	10	2	477	1	..	13	1	2	13	10	..	87	5	..	43	3	1	1	2	2	2	..	58		
Tisbury ..	9	4	..	6	..	8	7	..	20	..	25	40	..	12	5	9	2	12	20	3	..	210	1	..	8	4	135	7	..	20	7	2	5	49	47	2					
Warminster	21	10	..	10	4	..	4	20	2	5	5	5	23	20	20	2	1	..	38	38	..						
Westbury and Whorwellsdown	..	6	22	3	22	1	..	4	6	5	5	5	79	13	70	63	7					
Wilton ..	21	10	..	1	..	23	22	2	59	1	16	8	..	1	1	..	1	4	10	..	44	4	3	..	205	29	..	3	3	98	29	2	162	148	14							
Tetbury (Wilts Portion)	1	10			
TOTAL	629	467	194	211	..	312	77	24	219	43	322	480	7	285	127	49	20	63	200	174	166	1117	76	16	16	5	4	8	1	73	61	16	2005	146	40	95	39	1454	145	1	577	244	11	36	102	234	8	6	2	1592	1458	94

RAINFALL FOR WILTSHIRE, YEAR 1904.

OBSERVERS & STATIONS.	Height above sea level.		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals for the Year 1904.
Dr. BEDDOE, LL.D., F.R.S., The Chantry, Bradford-on-Avon.	130 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	2.90 .31 23	3.43 .55 23	1.74 .53 13	1.48 .23 12	1.90 .47 14	1.10 .39 8	3.90 1.48 12	3.14 .82 16	1.66 .42 9	0.73 .24 11	1.76 .50 11	1.98 .34 18	25.72 inches 170 days
A. J. BEAVEN, Esq., Holt, Near Bradford-on-Avon.	120 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	3.08 .30 25	3.46 .54 25	1.66 .35 20	1.73 .26 17	2.33 .57 19	1.07 .32 11	4.25 1.83 16	3.26 .72 23	1.89 .65 16	1.10 .23 23	1.96 .51 14	2.23 .42 24	28.02 inches 233 days
E. W. KNATCHBULL, Esq., Winsley Manor, Near Bradford-on-Avon.	400 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	2.91 .33 23	3.35 .51 22	1.54 .43 14	1.45 .23 12	1.85 .49 16	1.15 .37 8	3.50 1.22 13	3.11 .73 15	1.50 .34 9	0.84 .23 17	1.94 .50 17	2.05 .34 24	25.19 inches 190 days
H. WILKINS, Esq., Calne.	244 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	3.29 .46 20	3.35 .62 21	1.44 .21 13	1.59 .31 12	2.27 .51 15	1.00 .32 9	3.95 1.40 14	3.07 .71 12	1.55 .34 9	0.81 .21 9	1.57 .57 9	1.89 .53 10	25.78 inches 153 days
Rev. V. F. RANSOME, Compton Bassett, Calne.	400 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	3.80 .. 24	3.53 .. 22	1.46 .. 14	1.51 .. 12	2.65 .. 18	1.24 .. 9	3.90 1.27 14	2.43 .. 16	1.64 .. 14	1.02 .. 18	1.76 .. 13	2.24 .. 22	27.18 inches 196 days
J. IRELAND BOWES, Esq., Wilts County Asylum, Devizes.	385 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	3.12 .40 22	3.12 .56 18	1.35 .29 14	1.50 .25 13	2.85 .67 17	1.21 .48 8	2.97 .72 11	2.60 .64 12	1.72 .51 9	1.09 .27 17	1.54 .39 13	2.29 .55 17	25.36 inches 171 days
DEVIZES WATERWORKS, Pumping Station.	570 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	3.33 .59 19	3.92 .55 22	1.58 .30 15	1.67 .26 15	2.92 .59 16	1.12 .37 7	3.41 1.23 12	2.38 .73 12	2.05 .54 10	1.46 .32 14	1.84 .39 11	2.54 .56 20	28.22 inches 173 days
J. C. ALSOP, Esq., M.A., Marlborough College.	460 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	4.47 .65 23	3.88 .55 23	1.63 .39 15	1.39 .30 14	3.01 .70 22	1.07 .44 13	3.42 1.26 12	2.45 .73 13	2.00 .48 15	1.16 .28 18	2.04 .54 14	2.53 .61 22	29.05 inches 204 days
Mr. T. CHALLIS, Wilton House, Near Salisbury.	180 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	5.160 .930 23	5.460 .860 24	1.560 .360 15	1.510 .300 15	3.030 .775 20	0.820 .325 6	2.220 .530 13	3.270 1.130 16	2.085 .850 10	2.005 .870 15	1.230 .380 10	3.375 .610 22	31.775 inches 189 days
Rev. E. WELLS, West Dean, Near Salisbury.	138 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	4.14 .66 24	3.78 .59 21	1.57 .40 15	1.22 .22 13	3.21 .80 15	0.75 .25 7	1.73 .35 9	2.42 .46 14	2.40 .65 10	1.70 .58 9	1.04 .34 6	3.27 1.00 14	27.23 inches 157 days
JAMES BRISTOL, Esq., The Academy, Tisbury.	380 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	4.70 .73 18	4.16 .63 19	1.68 .41 9	1.61 .34 12	3.41 .77 14	1.23 .28 7	2.73 .93 8	3.02 .61 14	2.30 .80 6	2.24 .81 11	2.11 .55 9	3.47 .79 15	32.66 inches 142 days
F. J. WARDALE, Esq., Shrewton.	322 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	4.95 .82 26	3.83 .51 24	1.84 .35 16	1.51 .30 13	2.70 .76 16	1.25 .37 7	3.10 .73 11	2.75 .68 16	2.04 .60 10	1.90 .84 15	2.04 .53 16	3.14 .58 22	31.05 inches 192 days
H. J. HAMP, Esq., Wroughton Water Works, Swindon.	450 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	3.81 .61 18	3.25 .52 19	1.73 .29 13	1.46 .25 12	2.33 .48 16	1.13 .37 10	2.12 .58 12	2.27 .725 11	1.49 .40 8	0.79 .205 10	1.90 .45 9	1.87 .41 12	24.15 inches 150 days
Mr. W. STRUGNELL, F.R.H.S., Rood Ashton, Near Trowbridge.	250 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	3.19 .30 20	4.39 .60 23	2.04 .39 15	1.62 .28 12	2.50 .58 16	1.21 .37 9	3.46 1.19 12	2.95 .62 15	1.74 .50 11	1.03 .35 13	1.91 .46 16	2.85 .65 21	28.89 inches 183 days
JOHN WALLIS TITT, Esq., Rock Villa, Warminster.	400 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	4.59 .63 20	5.33 .78 23	2.10 .43 12	2.04 .26 12	2.84 .62 15	1.49 .50 7	3.63 1.20 12	2.65 .74 16	2.66 .85 10	2.03 .70 8	2.55 .50 9	3.53 .70 19	35.44 inches 163 days
H. T. COOKSON, Esq., Sturford Mead, Warminster.	449 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	3.35 .41 19	4.32 .52 24	1.79 .52 13	1.37 .21 15	2.50 .58 15	1.34 .47 7	3.62 1.54 11	2.99 .70 16	2.18 .58 9	1.88 .41 13	1.92 .48 9	2.66 .58 16	29.92 inches 167 days
STILES E. JEFFERYS, Esq., Rye Hill, Hill Deverill, Near Warminster.	466 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	4.47 .53 25	4.80 .54 23	2.31 .53 18	1.76 .26 15	2.93 .56 17	1.56 .47 8	3.32 .75 13	3.91 .71 20	2.88 1.04 12	2.19 .94 18	2.34 .47 16	3.10 .53 22	35.57 inches 207 days
TROWBRIDGE WATER CO., Biss Bottom, Upton Scudamore, Near Warminster.	311 feet	Amount collected in inches .. Greatest fall in one day in inches .. Number of days it fell ..	4.13 .61 20	4.76 .64 23	2.12 .53 13	1.69 .26 13	2.42 .53 15	1.19 .46 6	3.63 1.40 13	3.01 .69 15	2.35 .76 9	1.63 .56 12	1.86 .46 7	3.10 .62 17	31.89 inches 163 days
		Mean amount collected in inches .. Mean number of days it fell ..	3.855 21.7	4.006 22.1	1.730 14.2	1.561 13.2	2.650 16.4	1.162 8.1	3.270 12.1	2.871 15.1	2.007 10.3	1.422 13.9	1.850 11.6	2.673 18.7	29.06 inches 177.94 days

Mean Rainfall for the County of Wilts ... 29.06 inches

Mean Number of Days upon which rain fell ... 177.94 days

